The National
Future Farmer
Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America
April-May, 1982

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ag Electrification Winner Jim Loven
An Inside Look at the Race for National Office

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The National
Future Farmer
Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America

April-May, 1982
Volume 30 Number 4
ISSN 0027-9315

A Word With The Editor

The retirement of Mr. Edward J. Hawkins from the position of Administrative Director for FFA and the appointment of your editor to that position caused some realignment of duties at *The National FUTURE FARMER.* The change brings new responsibilities to a few people in key positions at the magazine and for some a new title. Your editor will continue to serve you and the magazine as Editor-in-Chief.

John M. (Jack) Pitzer will become Senior Editor with some special assignments in addition to the regular features he handles such as "FFA in Action," "Scoop" and "The Joke Page." He will continue to write and edit *Between Issues*, a newsletter for FFA advisors, head the FFA Calendar program and manage the in-house print shop.

Glenn D. Luedke becomes Director of Advertising with full responsibility for advertising sales which includes working with the magazine sales representatives on the West Coast and in the Midwest. Mr. Luedke is also in charge of advertising research and promotions.

Adriana (Jannie) Stagg will continue to manage the circulation department with the title of Circulation-Fulfillment Manager. This department has the big job of keeping up-to-date over 500,000 names and addresses and works with the computer company employed to help with this task. This department also keeps FFA membership lists of the organization which are used to check on a member's eligibility for contests, awards and other FFA activities.

Michael Wilson becomes Managing Editor with major responsibility for editorial content. He will continue to write feature articles, will handle layout and article scheduling and keep his camera active.

Jo Colley becomes Editorial Coordinator and will handle production responsibilities with the composition house and printer in addition to her other editorial duties. She will also serve as assistant to the Editor-in-Chief.

Wilson Carnes

Pitzer Luedke Stagg Wilson Colley

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Our Cover

A look of intense concentration covers the face of Jim Loven, of Cannon Falls, Minnesota, as he performs a delicate electrical operation perched high atop a utility pole. Jim's lofty ambitions led to his being named 1981 National Ag Electrification winner. His story appears on page 40.

Cover Photo by Michael Wilson

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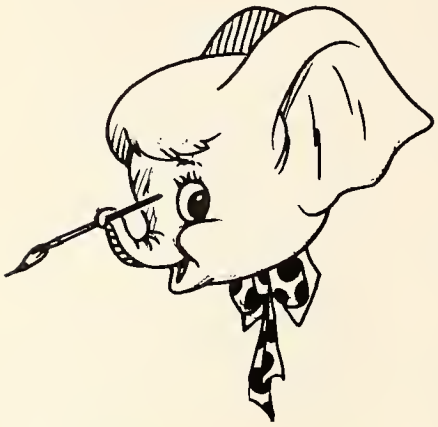

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Agriculture

LOOKING AHEAD

AGRICULTURE DAY, in case you missed it, was March 18. Among the celebrations and festivities, the following facts about agriculture were widely publicized and promoted by the Agriculture Day Foundation:

**Agriculture has assets of $1.1 trillion, equal to 88 percent of total assets of all manufacturing corporations in the United States;

**Over 23 million people are employed in the food and fiber system;

**One farmworker supplies enough food and fiber for 78 people, three times the output of 1960—an unequalled productivity record;

**Farm exports—about $45 billion in 1981—are the single most positive factor in our balance of trade. (*Based on 1978 data.*)

THE AVERAGE CONSUMER'S food bill is expected to rise 5 to 8 percent in 1982, says a report from the Peanut Advisory Board. The primary reason for the increase, according to the USDA, is higher cost of *processing* the food rather than higher costs of growing it. Last year's food prices, which originally were expected to rise as much as 15 percent, climbed only 8.2 percent—the smallest increase since 1977. In the past seven years, food prices have risen slower than the nation's overall inflation rate. Here's a current breakdown of the consumer's food bill dollar: Farm value—39 cents; Retailing—22 cents; Processing—24 cents; Wholesaling—10 cents; and Transportation—5 cents.

SPEAKING OF CONSUMERS: The average American consumed 1,402 pounds of food in 1980, but paid proportionately less for it than 20 years earlier, according to a USDA report found in Ciba Geigy's *Agri-news*. In 1960, food took about 20 cents per dollar of disposable income; but in 1980, food took only 16 cents per dollar. Orange juice, beef, chicken and cheese showed the biggest increases in consumption, while eggs, potatoes, milk and sugar showed declines.

INTEREST COSTS PAID by U.S. farmers have increased six times as much as was 11 years ago, rising from $3.2 billion in 1970 to an estimated $19 billion in 1981, say researchers at North Carolina State University. The increase in interest costs has been approximately twice as much as the increase in overall farm production expenses, which have tripled since 1970. Interest expenses now account for 13 percent of farmers' total production costs, compared with about 7½ percent ten years ago. Ironically, farmers' interest charges have now reached the point where they almost equal the nation's total net farm income, which fell to $19.9 billion in 1980 and about the same level in 1981.

WHAT NEXT? . . . USDA engineers have come up with a patented process for "exploding blueberries" and then returning them, after a year or more, to near fresh form. Here's how it works: Heavy pressure is exerted on small batches of blueberries in a heated chamber. As pressure is released, water in the blueberries literally explodes from the fruit and each explosion-dried batch ends up looking like soft, blue gravel. Each batch is puffed and crunchy—but add boiling water and the "blue gravel" is restored to a near fresh blueberry form. Since fresh blueberries are highly perishable, research scientists say explosion-drying may be the best way to store and ship commercial blueberries.

USDA LAUNCHES YOUNG Farmer Help Program: The Department of Agriculture has launched a new project in 81 counties in ten states to help part-time and beginning farmers and ranchers become full time, established operators according to a report in *Agricultural Banker*. Family Farmers and Ranchers Development Committees will counsel participants in each of the 81 counties throughout the pilot states of Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas. The committees will include representatives from farm organizations, cooperatives, vo-ag programs and farm lending organizations and will help candidates prepare annual and long-range programs. Individuals who don't qualify for private credit will be referred to FmHA (Farmers Home Administration). If the project is successful, USDA plans to expand it to a national program next year.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE pesticides? Plenty, according to a National Academy of Sciences report in a recent edition of *The Furrow*. Complete withdrawal of pesticides would result in a 30 percent reduction in crop yields, a 50 to 75 percent increase in the price of farm products and elimination of farm exports. Instead of the current 17 percent, U.S. consumers would have to spend 30 to 40 percent of their income for food, the report estimates.

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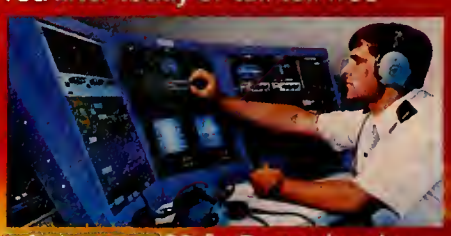

1-800-523-5000 (in Pennsylvania: 1-800-492-2029). Better yet, mail in the card.

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Readers Report

MAILBAG

Ephrata, Pennsylvania

Thank you for sending me my driver's license. I was really relieved to find it in the letter. I knew I had lost it when I was at the national convention, but dear knows where.

Again, thanks to whoever found it.

Dwight Graybill

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

I attended the National Convention in November. As I was walking outside the main arena before the last session, one of my contact lenses fell out of my eye. As I was looking on the floor for it, a chapter advisor and members walked by and helped me look for the lens and they found it. I did not see what chapter they were from or even what state, but I would like to thank them once again. Thank you!

Kathey Henson
John Marshall Chapter

Crawley, Louisiana

It is always a pleasure to read *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. Just reading the articles about places I have been, FFA activities I have attended and people I have met makes it enjoyable to read the articles.

I especially enjoy reading the "News in Brief" because it keeps me up to date on current events in the FFA.

Thank you for doing such a fine job.

Valorie White

Penn Valley, California

I'm a 15½-year-old Greenhand at Nevada Union High School in Grass Valley. I just received my first *FUTURE FARMER* magazine and I love it. It is really interesting and will help me a lot with reports and especially my projects.

I have a question. Can you mail in a picture of some FFA members just to show other FFA members and put a story or report with it?

Lisa Masters

Refer to the "FFA in Action" and "Chapter Scoop" columns in the magazine. These will give you an idea of what you can send in.—Ed.

St. Paul, Minnesota

Thank you for sending the extra copies of the February-March issue featuring Bryan Sommer.

My congratulations and commendations for the excellent photos and copy. We are extremely proud of Bryan's accomplishments and the honor he has brought to our programs.

It was gratifying to note the story on Charles Funk, written by one of his former students and an American Farmer degree recipient.

It was great to have an editor visit Minnesota. I trust that you will return again in the future.

Paul M. Day
State Supervisor
Minnesota Association FFA

Washington, D.C.

I am sure we have you to thank for a fresh-off-the press copy of the February-March issue. Your article on the farmland issue is a cogent summary, and we are appreciative of your having mentioned us. I am particularly pleased that FFA members will have the benefit of this strong introduction to the issue.

Douglas P. Wheeler
President
American Farmland Trust

Doswell, Virginia

A few days ago I was looking through your magazine and I started reading "The Joke Page." I came across a joke I had read before. I started looking through another magazine (I won't tell its name) and I found the joke. Obviously it was copied and sent in to you. Here are the jokes. I just wanted you to be aware of this.

I would appreciate it if you would tell me what you are going to do about it because I know you give $5 to the people whose jokes you use, but I do think it should be original—at least!

Tracy Sergeant

Thank you for your concern. We are aware that most jokes submitted by members are not originals. And, although we hope not to run just jokes you've read in other popular magazines, we do pay for those we select for our page. Response from readers to our new policy on the joke page ($5 payments vs $2 and no restriction as to what they're submitted on, i.e., postcard or letter) has been terrific.—Ed.

Galesburg, Illinois

I am writing concerning the cover of the February-March issue. Since the FFA is a safety minded organization, I am curious why you pictured the young man cleaning the plowshare with improper attire. I am speaking of his tennis shoes. Our chapter feels that the picture implies unsafe practices. This is not what the FFA should portray especially on the national level.

Bob Hennenfent
President

Charlestown, New Hampshire

Your article on the Student Conservation Program (December-January, 1981-82) was accurate and complete. Thank you for the fine job you did.

Scott C. Weaver
Director, High School Program
Student Conservation Association

Lyons, Indiana

In the February-March, 1982, issue there was a rebuttal on the article "Hunting the Cottontail Rabbit" in which your reader stated that a .22 bullet is composed of steel.

I know of no ammunition maker that provides steel bullets. Small point, but . . .

William W. Puckett

Metropolis, Illinois

I think you people do a great job on the *FUTURE FARMER*. Some of the articles in it have helped me with my own experience program.

I'm a junior and have been in FFA three years and the magazine gets better every year. Keep up the good work!

Kelly House

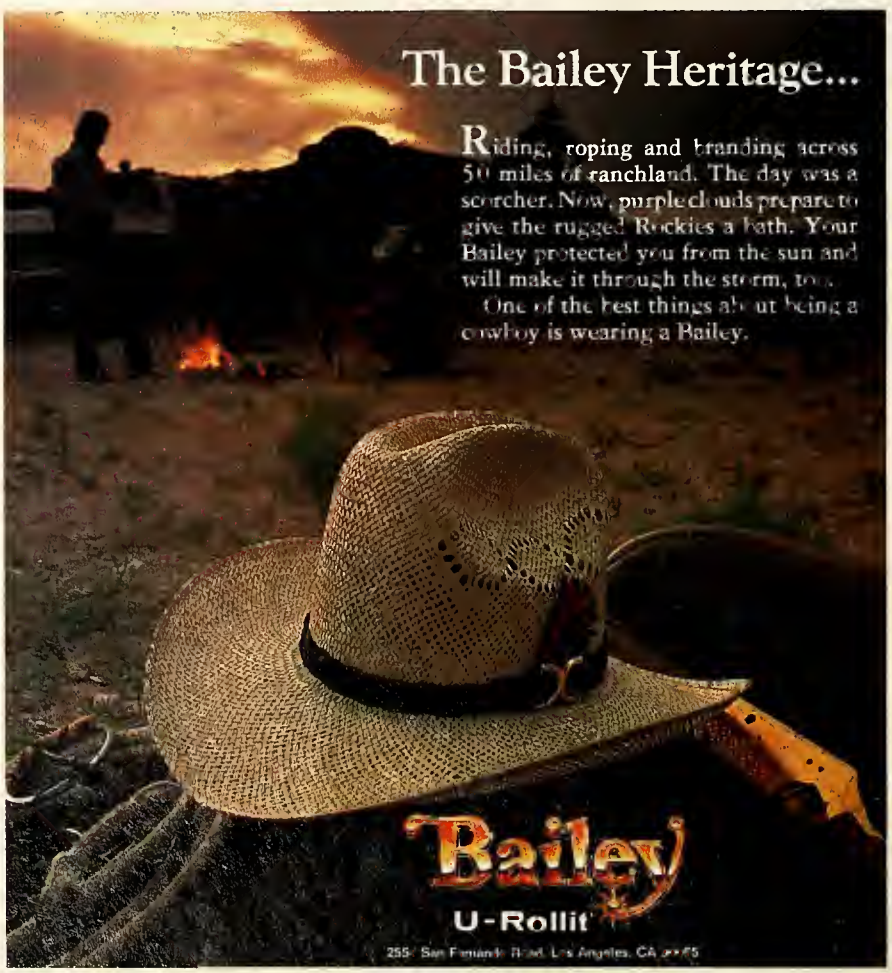
Pierre, South Dakota

I thought the article ("Where the Buffalo Roam" February-March, 1982) was really good. I made the local paper because of the article.

Dad and I have been getting mail from people that are interested in buffalo and they are starting their own herds.

Thanks again and the article was very good.

Lura Houck


The Bailey Heritage...
Riding, roping and branding across 50 miles of ranchland. The day was a scorcher. Now, purple clouds prepare to give the rugged Rockies a bath. Your Bailey protected you from the sun and will make it through the storm, too.
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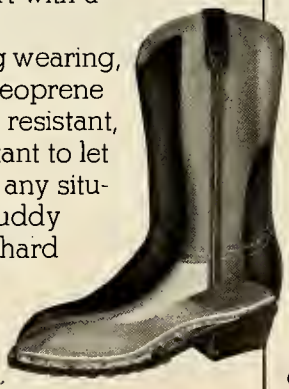

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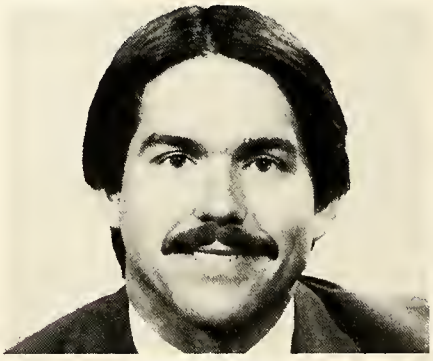
The FFA NEWS IN BRIEF

A SPECIAL NOTE OF Thanks should go out to the National FFA Foundation for a record-breaking year in 1981. According to Owen Newlin, Sponsoring Committee past chairman from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., last year's total fund drive campaign had the largest increase ever, approximately 17 percent over 1980. Sponsors contributed almost $1 million to the National FFA Foundation in 1981, compared to $335,227 ten years earlier. Ninety-five thousand dollars of that total went to fund the National Hall of Achievement. In addition, 1981 saw the largest annual program (over $72,000) ever funded and 51 scholarships totaling $15,300 are now available in 24 states for chapter officers attending the Washington Conference Program.

STEVE GREENE, a former FFA member and chapter officer, has been named Planned Giving Officer for the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee. The DeGraff, Ohio, native and Ohio State University graduate has had previous experience in this area, having worked with a life insurance



Steve Greene

company. Greene majored in Agricultural Economics while in college and joins the FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee with major duties in putting together a structured program for planned giving with wills, annuities, life insurance and cash gifts.

U.S. SENATOR John Tower, R-Tex., presented a resolution on the Senate floor February 9, 1982, recognizing the Future Farmers of America during FFA WEEK (February 20-27). The resolution, in part, states: "Since its humble beginnings 55 years ago, the FFA has endeavored to aid in the preparation of young men and women for careers in the industry of agriculture. The organization, now boasting nearly 500,000 students in over 8,000 schools throughout the United States, has successfully prepared these young people for roles of leadership in the agricultural industry . . . Having had several opportunities to address the Future Farmers, I have seen dedication and skills instilled in our young people as they attempt to provide even greater vitality to this nation's most vital and basic industry, the industry of agriculture . . . ."

WILSON W. CARNES has been appointed Administrative Director of the national FFA organization effective February 27, 1982. Mr. Carnes, a native of Alabama, served as Editor of *The*

Wilson Carnes

National FUTURE FARMER for 24 years prior to his appointment, and will continue his editorial direction as Editor-in-Chief. Mr. Carnes will also continue serving as Director of the FFA's Publication Division.

THE NATIONAL FFA BOARD of Directors and student officers met in Alexandria, Virginia, January 24-28 to discuss several important items affecting FFA membership. Among them:

- Moved that the amendment concerning American Farmer Degrees in the National Constitution go into effect as of January 1, 1982. Therefore, American Farmer degrees presented in November, 1983, will be affected by the constitutional change and will need to meet the new $5,000 minimum requirement for capital productively invested.
- Moved that an increase of $1.75 be granted in cost of the official FFA jacket, bringing the total cost to $26.75 per jacket effective August 15, 1982.
- Approved having a Public Service Announcement and National FFA WEEK campaign utilizing a national celebrity as FFA's spokesman be made available as a special project of the National FFA Foundation only if funded.
- Recommended to recognize individual accomplishments of FFA members participating in the BOAC program with local, state and national awards and a National Leadership Conference on Community Development for state winners and their advisors. •••

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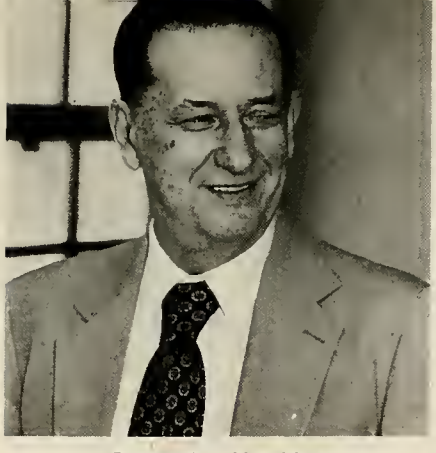

Edward J. Hawkins

The Building of A Success Story

As Manager of the FFA Supply Service, Ed Hawkins nurtured a growing business into a large service cooperative for the FFA.

By John M. Pitzer

In 1948 the FFA Supply Service opened its doors for business at what was then the National FFA Camp. FFA leaders had heard the cry from vo-ag teachers for help.

When a teacher wanted FFA jewelry, clothing or trophies, he might have had to order from a number of separate companies. At that time, the national FFA organization had authorized certain companies to produce and sell specific FFA items directly to chapters. Service was reportedly poor since those firms often manufactured items only after an order was received. Teachers wanted better service.

So the new FFA Supply Service printed a small folder showing six official FFA items available during the first year: the now famous blue corduroy jacket; a blue sport shirt; an FFA tie; a white T-shirt; a softball uniform consisting of cap, jersey and pants; and a wool blanket. When this flyer was mailed to chapters around the nation, hundreds of orders poured in.

In the next three years, the Supply Service grew by leaps and bounds creating many problems. Something had to be done. In October of 1951, Mr. Edward Hawkins was named manager and began his 30 years of service to FFA which ended with his retirement February 26, 1982, after 11 years as Administrative Director.

Mr. Hawkins' background had taken him from a farm in Pennsylvania in which he still has an interest, to Captain in the Air Force in the South pacific, and through ten years of federal government service where he was a purchasing officer for the Federal Security Agency at the time he was employed by FFA. His education in business administration, accounting and finance at George Washington University, helped him to take leadership of the Supply Service.

The driving force of this new manager was service to chapters, advisors and state associations. He instilled that in his growing staff, some of whom are still key managers in the Supply Service. "We exist only to provide service," he frequently said.

Because teachers wanted faster service, Mr. Hawkins started taking more production into the Supply Service. One of the first moves involved jewelry. The L.G. Balfour Company was selling directly to chapters but only made the products when orders were accumulated. So the FFA made an agreement with Balfour to produce jewelry items to be stocked and sold by the Supply Service.

Mr. Hawkins recalls an example of how sales skyrocketed. In 1954, FFA began marketing silver FFA rings. Balfour had sold about a thousand per year. FFA sold 20,000 the first year.

Another example: in about 1952, 41,000 members bought new FFA jackets. All orders for jackets were sent to a factory for lettering and eventual shipment to the member. But many times, members would send their jackets back to have the year changed, or their elected office changed. The pile of boxes going back and forth to the factory was huge and the delays long. So Mr. Hawkins hit upon the idea of the Supply Service getting a lettering machine. Relettering service improved by two weeks.

For years ag teachers could buy trophies for chapter awards, fairs or shows; but had no way to get them engraved. Again, the national organization heard the cry for help and added their own engraving equipment.

Some teachers learned how to get their requests heard—the telephone. National Advisor Byron Rawls reflects, "When I was a chapter advisor and needed to get my banquet order back in time, I'd call Mr. Hawkins. And it would be there." Today, the telephone order department of the Supply Service is a major operation.

Names of members and names of chapters are what folks wanted on their FFA merchandise. So that's how the size of the operation grew; from six items in 1947 to over 1,000 items in today's full-color sales catalog.

Mr. Hawkins was instrumental in providing assistance to NVATA, Young Farmer groups and the FFA Alumni in developing merchandise appropriate for their organizations. Similarly, he and his staff were always willing to make a special plaque for someone special such as a school superintendent or a governor.

By 1959, under Mr. Hawkins' leadership, the Supply Service had generated enough earnings to complete a permanent building for the Supply Service and offices of *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine at what is now the National FFA Center. These operations were able to move out of the wooden barracks-type buildings into a $325,000 facility (really big money in those days). In 1965, a warehouse wing was added to the Center and a third wing was built in 1978.

Reflecting on his 30-year career of service to FFA, Mr. Hawkins was particularly proud of the kinds of training given FFA staff members like cross-training so one person could fill another position when needed. He reflects on the importance of hiring good people with loyality and a willingness to work. Harry Andrews, curent manager, was a young assistant manager when Mr. Hawkins was hired by FFA in 1951.

As Administrative Director, Mr. Hawkins has many achievements to his credit. His sound fiscal management of the national organization in cooperation with the Board of Directors and National Advisors H.N. Hunsicker and later Byron Rawls made it possible for FFA to maintain its excellent financial position. Many of FFA's policies and procedures and especially those dealing with finances and personnel reflect his concepts. He also had a major role in the building programs at the National FFA Center as the organization rapidly expanded to accommodate a growing organization. One of his latest major accomplishments was implementation of the computer system which is now installed and will soon be operating.

Looking at the future, Mr. Hawkins predicts that our nation's business situation will continue to challenge the national organization. "With good management and planning, FFA can survive and be strong," he said. And members for years to come will benefit from this man's service. It's an exciting success story.

Mr. Hawkins, left, announced the owner of the millionth FFA jacket at the national convention. It was one milestone of his career.

The Anderson Scholarships: Good News For Deserving Students

How would you like to win a full scholarship for over $11,000—enough to cover all college expenses for four years?

Your chances are good if you're a deserving student at James Wood High School in Winchester, Virginia. It's true skyrocking college costs are making some vo-ag students think twice about higher education. But the C.R. Anderson Scholarships at James Wood are giving agriculture students here a chance to get that education they've always dreamed of.

It all started in 1972, through a trust fund created under the will of Dr. Charles R. Anderson, a prominent member of the Winchester community who died in 1953, says A. Hylton Clark, advisor at the James Wood FFA Chapter. Dr. Anderson stipulated that, upon the death of his wife, all money from his estate would go to a fund for students. The scholarships are presented to those graduating seniors entering V.P.I. (Virginia Polytechnic Institute) and S.U. (State University) School of Agriculture and students are selected on the basis of scholastic achievement and aptitude.

"We are very proud of our program and the accomplishments of our students," says Advisor Clark, "and I am sure the Anderson Scholarships have contributed a great deal to having high quality students in our program."

Mr. Clark says the scholarships were given exclusively to FFA members from its beginning through 1979, when the awards were opened up to all deserving students meeting the requirements.

Currently, each scholarship totals about $2,800 per year, or $11,200 over a four-year period. Since its beginning in 1972 with the presentation of two scholarships, the total number of dollars given to worthy students has swelled to over $650,000.

To date, 65 awards have been granted through the program, including eight in 1981. Of these, approximately 25 students have graduated, and 40 are currently on campus, student teaching or working under the V.P.I. co-op program. Recipients include 47 men and 18 women.

Although the scholarships are now open to all students, recipients are still almost exclusively from FFA and vocational agriculture backgrounds. For example, ten of the 65 award-winners are curently or are planning to become vocational agriculture teachers; 63 have received the American Farmer degree and one has received a regional proficiency award. Doug Rinker, national FFA president in 1979-80, also received an Anderson Scholarship.

The number of scholarships awarded each year is decided by The Commercial and Savings Bank, of which Dr. Anderson was once director, and is based on the amount of monies accumulated in the trust fund (money is re-invested from year to year). Students must be recommended by the selection committee, composed of the superintendent of Frederick County Schools, the principal of James Wood High School and the James Wood Agriculture Department chairman.

Dr. Melton Wright, as superintendent of Frederick County Schools for 14 years, is one of three persons charged with selecting scholarship winners.

"It's certainly one of the most unique vocational scholarship programs in America," Dr. Wright says. "I question whether there's one in the country any better.

"Our FFA program is an outstanding one, and I think the scholarship program contributes to that because it's highly motivational for students to work harder and achieve more." •••

"Why are American farmers price takers and not price makers?"

Tell us what *you* think in 500 words or less.

The editors of *The National FUTURE FARMER* recently received the following letter from a Wisconsin FFA member. The letter reads:

As a senior enrolled in Vocational Agriculture at Iowa-Grant High School at Livingston, Wisconsin, and as president of our Future Farmers of America Chapter, myself and other members of the chapter have been deeply concerned about the question, "Why are the American farmers the price takers and not the price makers or price getters?" We feel that it is not fair that the farmer does not have any say as to the price he gets for his products. I would like to hear from you as to your thinking on this subject.

We appreciate your consideration and time in regard to this matter.

Sincerely,
(signed)
Dave Vogel
President of Iowa-Grant
Future Farmers of America

Dave's letter asks a very good question: "Why ARE American farmers price takers and not price makers?"

What's your opinion? Do you have an answer to Dave's question? We thought it might be interesting to let you, the readers of *The National FUTURE FARMER* take a crack at answering this question, so here's what we propose.

Write an answer to Dave's question in a 500-words-or-less typewritten paper. Your answer should be as detailed as possible and include any facts, quotes or opinions you feel necessary. It should be as well-written and clear as possible. Entries will be judged by the editors of *The National FUTURE FARMER* and their decision will be final.

The most convincing yet realistic answer will be named the winner.

The winning reply will be published in a future issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. In addition, the FFA member who sends in the winning reply will receive $35 and a brand new FFA officer/member ring, advertised in this issue. Second and third prizes of $25 and $15 will be awarded and those members' names will be published along with the winner.

Here are the rules:

1) Replies must be from FFA members only.
2) Entries must be postmarked no later than May 30, 1982, and sent to: CONTEST, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.
3) Replies must be typewritten, double-spaced and a maximum of 500 words.
4) You must include your name, address, phone number, high school and FFA chapter.

Good luck!

All replies become the property of The Future FARMER and cannot be returned.

Watching the sunset from Rattlesnake Grade after a memorable day together.

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ANY KID CAN LEARN TO SHOOT A RIFLE. HANDLING IT LIKE A MAN IS THE REAL LESSON.

Jim Campbell taught his son about shooting, the same way his dad taught him. And we think it's a lesson worth repeating.

The way he tells it, the most important thing in learning to shoot is learning how to handle responsibility. That includes a respect for game laws, a respect for property, a respect for safety and a proper respect for nature.

For his age, John is a fine shot. Which in this case says as much about his dad's careful teaching as it does about the care we take in making our 22 ammo.

The Good Ol' Boys make a variety of 22 ammo including the Stinger, Mini Mag, Maxi Mag and Shot Shell.

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Photos by Author

Above, Roy heads for the field on one of three 22-foot self-propelled combines the brothers own; below, Ed (left), and Roy check winter wheat seeding on their 1,700-acre farm.

The Epp

Ed and Roy Epp use specialized farm management skills to spell profit for their custom-combining and farm enterprises

By Michael Wilson

ROY Epp is one young farmer who is hard to keep up with at harvesttime. But if you really needed a minute with him, you'd be sure to find him right behind the wheel of one of his 22-foot self-propelled combines.

You see, Roy has quickly learned one of the oldest and wisest rules of production agriculture: at harvest, time is money.

Roy, a 20-year-old FFA'er from Selma, Alabama, is the 1981 state FFA Crop Production winner. He currently farms 1,700 acres of soybeans and wheat in partnership with his 23-year-old brother Ed, a former state FFA winner in Ag Mechanics.

You'd think a 1,700-acre grain operation would be plenty to keep two young farmers like Roy and Ed busy. Think again.

By merging their specialized skills and interests, the duo also managed to custom harvest about 5,000 acres of winter wheat and soybeans last year.

Roy and Ed have what some might consider a unique, somewhat ideal partnership. Roy, whose SOE program gave him valuable experience in crop production, now handles major cropping responsibilities for the Epp operation. Ed, on the other hand, gained valuable experience in FFA and vo-ag class as an ag mechanic and now applies his knowledge to the brothers' farm machinery maintenance program. Combine the two and presto: Roy plants and harvests the crops while Ed sees to it the big machines keep rolling.

"I think they both have a natural talent in farm management," say Van Smith, Selma vo-ag instructor and FFA advisor. "You won't find any two students this quick out of high school this mature and ready to take on the responsibility they have."

Responsibility is right. Together, the two young men have invested in three large combines, three large tractors, two four-wheel drive pickups and an eight-row planter.

What makes Roy and Ed's story even more unusual is that neither were raised on

Brothers: At Harvest, Time is Money

a farm. Father Freddie Epp offers enthusiastic encouragement and advice, Roy says, but has never been involved financially. Ed and Roy have contracted their custom-harvest operation and rented acreage totally on their own.

"My brother began farming while in high school and continued while in college," says Roy, "so due to his being away from home, I began to help farm. My crop production project was aided by my working for Ed and his allowing me to use his equipment until I bought mine."

Ed had already paid off his first self-propelled combine and was renting about 1,000 acres of cropland when Roy joined him in partnership. With Roy specializing in crops and Ed specializing in mechanics, the two complemented each other to a tee.

"Ed can fix practically anything," says Roy with admiration. "He's able to keep our equipment in top order so I can come in to a field to plant or harvest. We work real well together."

Roy: "Ed's able to keep our equipment in top order . . . we work well together."

That may be one reason why the brothers manage to handle the tremendous pressure and stress that comes with spring's planting/harvesting season.

"Most of the time when we're combinin' in the spring we've got a planting operation coming along right behind us, so timing and coordination in the fields is crucial," explains Roy. Two-way radios in each combine and tractor help save gas, time, and "smooth out the operation so we can get more for the dollar," adds Ed. While Roy and other combine operators run the machines, Ed coordinates field activity, acting as a "floater," fixing tractors and combines, seeing that parts are replaced quickly and tending to any other maintenance throughout the long work days. And work days here can be v-e-e-r-y long.

"We usually start about five in the mornin', and it can get as late as 11 or 12 o'clock at night when you're waiting at the elevator to unload grain," comments Roy.

"The combines run on the average about 11 or 12 hours per day," adds Ed, "and we usually have enough trucks running that we don't get 'stacked up.' On a good day with three combines running and 50-bushel-per-acre wheat we've cut almost 10,000 bushels. But we usually average about 7,000 bushels per day."

The brothers double crop (winter wheat and soybeans) about 60 percent of their leased acreage, then reverse the amount the following year. "That way we utilize fertilizer to the fullest, as well as using cover crops on some land to keep it from washing," explains Roy. Like most crop specialists, Roy likes to experiment in an effort to get higher yields and profits.

"It's interesting to see how certain sections of land take different crops, or what the best crop is on a particular piece of land," he muses. "For example, it may not always be wise to bring all that big equipment in on a 20-acre plot, so we may plant a different crop that would be more economical."

Roy and Ed approach farming as a specialized business. Each speaks of profit margins, credit ratings and farm management as if both had been born and raised on a farm. They realize farming is risky, so they never rely on luck.

"We always incorporate all our chemicals because we feel like we get better consistency and results rather than spraying it on top and hoping it rains," says Ed. "We try to time our spraying and planting to take advantage of soil conditions and get the best results.

"We've found timing is the main thing in farming," Roy adds.

The brothers make it a practice to forward-contract their crops whenever possible.

"We keep a close check on prices," Roy says. "It might cost you money to run down to the elevator every day to check prices, but it's worth every penny."

The spring of 1981 proved as an example. "Wheat had gone down to $3 per bushel, but we had already forward-contracted 85 percent of our crop at $4.61," says Roy, "so we made an additional $1.61 per bushel. We calculated the cost margin and figured the profit was there."

There is one more area of farming in which the two brothers have excelled, although it cannot be taught from any farm management textbook. It's called attitude.

"You'll just run up against a wall if you think you know it all yourself," says Roy. "We've had help from other folks, we've read materials . . . and listened to farmers who've been in the business a lot longer than we have."

At one time Freddie Epp ran a machinery repair shop that was often the central meeting point for area farmers.

"We were in contact with all the farmers every day," says Ed. "We were both raised working on everybody else's equipment. We always liked working on the equipment and dreamed of having some of our own, so when the opportunity came we'd go to work for some of those farmers until we had enough credit built up to go into business ourselves."

Ed and Roy are two progressive farmers who have learned much since their beginnings in production agriculture. They've put their vo-ag training and FFA experiences to good use in their farming business and along with help from others, have progressed as a result. But they still hold to the familiar FFA motto of learning by doing.

"There's just one way to learn," advises Ed with a grin, "and that's to go out and do it." •••

A Week to Last a Lifetime

by Shirley Jones

EVERY summer it happens.

FFA members from across the nation board buses, planes and cars and travel to Washington, D.C., for the Washington Leadership Conference Program.

They come, 200 Future Farmers and their advisors per week, to learn and grow and observe in the nation's capital.

It is a week they remember for a long, long time.

"When I got home, I had a whole new outlook," says Beth Kennedy, a 1981 participant from Mustang, Oklahoma.

"Before, the FFA was an organization you joined to show animals.

"Suddenly, I realized I could make a difference in my chapter," she says.

The conference is made up of memorable moments—visiting with a national officer, touring Washington by night, vespers by the reflecting pool at the Lincoln Memorial, meeting Congressmen and Senators. A highlight for many is the chance to share new ideas with FFA members from all corners of America.

There's a tour of the National FFA Center, an afternoon at Mount Vernon plantation and workshops on leadership, human relations and communication.

"The workshops were my favorite part," Kennedy says, "because I found out I could do things I'd never done before."

Others share Beth's enthusiasm for the WCP. Since its inception in 1969, nearly 11,000 members have taken part. Tony Hoyt, FFA program specialist for Leadership Development, says the involvement stems from the effectiveness of the leadership training.

"Vo-ag teachers have seen their students come back from the conference and really take over the leadership of the chapter," says Hoyt.

"That allows the advisor to 'advise' instead of having to do everything."

Mike Cavey, a Missoula, Montana, instructor, found the benefits of attending extended beyond his students—to himself.

Cavey says the understanding he gained of the FFA's national workings is important to any instructor.

"There's a bond formed that lasts when you get to meet people from all parts of the country who share an interest like the FFA," says Cavey, referring to his friendships with other advisors. "And it's helped my own career as well as my chapter."

If there is a drawback to the WCP, Advisor Cavey says it is the expenses of transportation added to the $250 conference fee.

"Granted, it's expensive, but the benefits far outweigh the costs," says Conference Director Teresa Tesnohlidek, a former WC participant.

Chapters work hard to raise money to send their members—fund raisers, securing local sponsors and some apply for Alumni and National Foundation scholarships through their state associations. This proves to be a worthwhile investment for any chapter says Tesnohlidek.

"When the members get home and share what they've learned in Washington, then you find the true worth of the program. It can enrich an entire chapter."

Plans are well under way for this summer's conferences to be held at the Twin Bridges Marriott and a new location—the Hyatt Regency at Crystal City. The 1982 staff is made up of accomplished FFA leaders. Directors Tesnohlidek and Jeff Rudd will coordinate the conferences along with counselors Jeff Kirby, Mark Lelle, Jeanette Jones, Larry Stoller, David Pearce, Lance Chancellor, Ken Maxwell and Susie Quay.

Registration for the eight week-long sessions will again be done through the promotional brochure mailed to each chapter. If you have questions that are not answered in the brochure, address your letters to: The Washington Conference Program, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. •••

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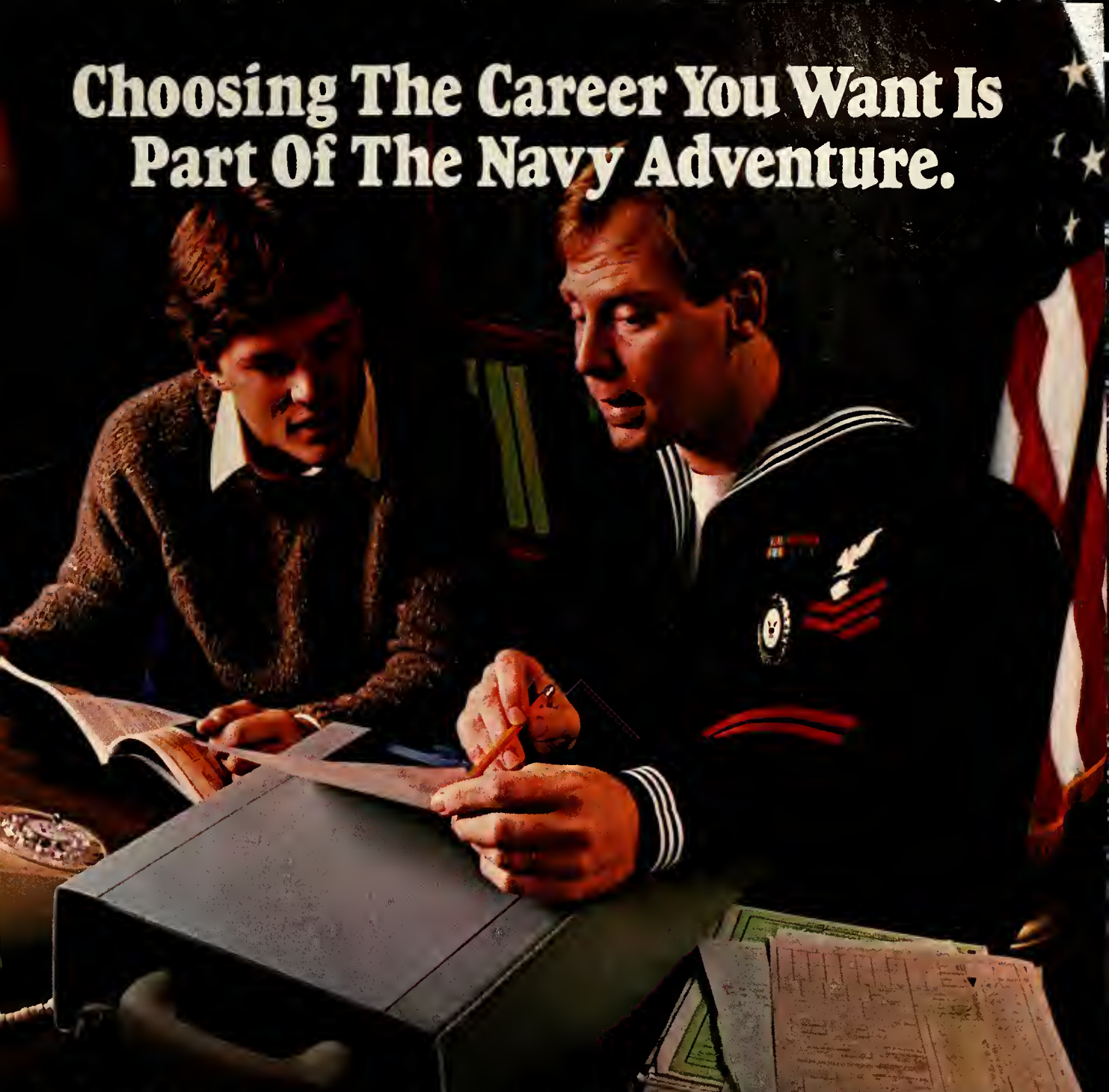

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SUZUKI

No Ordinary "Ag Shop" at Owatonna

Advisors Edin and Kosel at Owatonna's New vocational facility.

If you're a vo-ag student at Owatonna High School in Minnesota, chances are you just can't wait to get to school in the morning.

Why? Owatonna High School is the home of what one Minnesota state vo-ag official describes as "the premiere facility for ag mechanics."

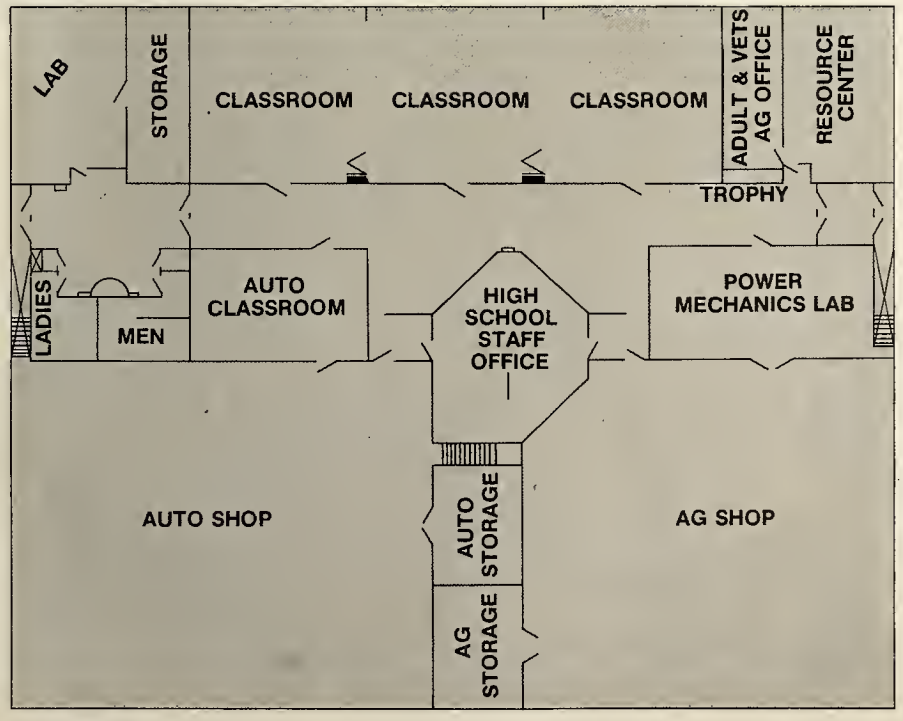
The $587,000 two-story brick building, now just over three years old, houses agriculture and auto mechanics classes for high school, adult and veteran students. And it's the result of careful planning by local vo-ag instructors, school officials local ag council members and people in the Owatonna community.

Classroom facilities in the 150-foot by 125-foot structure are flexible (see diagram) with the capability of maintaining three 900-square-foot classrooms or a single 2,700-foot meeting area. Additional areas include the agricultural lab, a resource center, power mechanics classroom and auto classroom, as well as the ag and auto shop area.

Very few "ag shops" across the country can boast as much versatility as the one at Owatonna. For example, the "in-house" resource center contains magazines, books, tapes, audio-visuals and practically any other agricultural-related material a vo-ag student can think of. The 256 students enrolled in vo-ag here also have access to the MECC (Minnesota Educational Computer Consortium) program, enabling them to do farm management problems via computer.

The facility was a welcome addition to the school district, agree Owatonna instructors Glen Edin, Brian Kosel and Don Barber. But it didn't just appear overnight.

Below, a birdseye view: Note the versatility of three-in-one classroom design.



"We planned and had input on this the whole way through," says Kosel. "We visited several other facilties and had excellent cooperation from the Owatonna Agricultural Advisory Council. We tried to fit the situation in Owatonna to what we needed. Each of the instructors sat down with a plan covering what they needed and we came up with an overall plan for the facility."

Kosel says the combination of community support, concerned instructors and a new facility have led to students who are more movitated to learn.

"There's so much you can do in the shop," says Owatonna FFA Chapter President Ken Kern. "If we want to bring something in to work on, the instructors are always willing to let you work; they want you to learn in all areas."

Owatonna is an ideal example of a school district and community working together. Since most industry in the community is ag related, many students are recruited after high school graduation, often because community businessmen recognize the "hands-on" training and versatile facilities at the high school.

"We wouldn't be where we are without community support," agrees Kosel. Instructor Edin adds, "We needed a complete ag program, because this is basically an ag community. What we're trying to do is motivate these students so they can go out there (in the community) and do a better job. In that respect, I'd say the new facility really meets the community's demands.

"The students that come out of our program have exposure to several different fields of interest, such as hydraulics and mechanics," Edin continues. "Logically, if they stay in the community they're going to end up working for one of the local agribusinesses."

Students who enter the vo-ag program here start with an exploratory course designed to find a student's interest. From there, students split off into different areas,

(Continued on Page 25)

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Since 1947, well over 100,000 vo-ag students have earned the highest degree of agricultural proficiency—the DEKALB Agricultural Accomplishment Award.

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Ag Shop

(Continued from Page 23)

such as ag business, production agriculture and ag mechanics. Hydraulic and small engines courses are required for entrance into the school's automotive program. Mr. Edin says management and leadership are stressed in almost all areas of instruction.

Growth has been one main influence in the building of the new structure. "In 1973 we started a small engines class in Owatonna—one class, 15 students . . . I had to teach out of a garage," explains Kosel. "Last year there were five sections of classes—and 103 students."

Community support also comes in the way of constructing projects for students in class. Since Owatonna instructors stress the value of practical "take-home" knowledge, it's only natural each student has a personalized, usable project to work on in class. "There's no limit to what we build here," Mr. Kosel says. That includes feed bunks, wagons, trailers, and a wide array of small wooden buildings. They've even put together farm implements here.

Yes, the new "ag shop" here at Owatonna may be a welcome addition to the neighboring community. But what is more important is that now, vo-ag students have an even greater opportunity to learn, under better conditions. And that makes for more students better prepared for careers in agriculture. •••

Above, vo-ag students have access to several different ag-related materials in the school's Resource Center.

Advisor Kosel instructs student in the school's Power Mechanics lab.

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RUNNING:

An inside look at the quest to become a National Officer

By Michael Wilson

(Editor's note: During last year's National FFA Convention, Associate Editor Michael Wilson was given permission to enter the national officer nominating committee room during the course of the selection process. Throughout the convention, he was allowed to observe the nominating committee members and the national officer candidates as the screening process unfolded. What follows is a summary of his observations and interviews; all names have been deliberately omitted.)

It seems too simple: six names are called, elected by the delegates, and six excited faces spring from the crowd onto the stage, ready to dig into one of the most exciting, challenging and rewarding years of their lives; a year of leadership, travel and FFA promotion throughout the United States and the world.

Who are they? They're new national officers, ready to embark on an adventure very few will ever have. Yes, the announcement of the new National FFA Officers, sensational as it is, seems simple—but it's not. It's the culmination of a very selective, painstaking screening process.

The typical convention-goer only sees the candidates and the excitement of the announcement. What he *doesn't* see is this "process" of nomination: What happens behind the scenes? Who is the nominating committee, and how do they work? Are the rumors true? What happens to a candidate throughout the week of grueling interviews? Questions, questions, questions—but for the typical FFA member, the national officer election process likely remains a mystery.

Last year, 33 former state FFA officers laid their futures on the line for a chance to become national officers. Of those 33, only 6 made it; 27 more did not. It begins with registration, orientation, photos—and ends, for most, with a long trip back home. A current national officer offered this wisdom to the hopeful candidates as they approached their first interviews: "Win, lose or draw, it's going to be one of the most exciting weeks of your life." And as the week's events unfolded, his words, for most, became almost prophetic.

Armed with pencil and notepad, I made my way to the area where the candidates wait to be interviewed. You could feel the tension, the nerves, the electricity; it was to be the first interview for all, and no one knew what to expect. All the days, weeks and hours of preparing, and suddenly, the moment was here; now, there was no turning back.

I sat in what is known to most as "the hot box," or "sweat box"—legendary among national officer candidates. Located on the second tier of Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, the hot box is where candidates nervously wait, wondering who will be called next, wondering and waiting, waiting and wondering.

The interviews begin a full day before most convention-goers arrive, so on this first night, the surrounding rows of empty chairs make the tiny cluster of blue jackets resemble a lonely committee group working far into the night. Periodically, a friend drops by to offer encouragement. Cautiously, I asked one of the candidates what was going through his mind.

"I don't think the nervousness is the big thing, but rather the waiting—you begin to feel real anxious," he says. This particular candidate had run for national officer last year and was speaking from experience. "A lot of times there's three to seven hours waiting between interviews . . . I think the most difficult part of the whole process is not the questions, but the waiting until you're called in."

Another candidate adds: "You hear about the anxieties you may go through, the frustrations you may encounter. And before you've gone through it you say to yourself, 'Somehow, I will overcome these things.' One of my good friends (a former candidate) told me the only thing worse than being in there is being out of there."

Although the screening process begins at the national convention, a candidate's first step begins at the state level. Almost all candidates are former state officers because of the valuable experience provided. Each candidate is nominated by a state association. Usually, they have about four or five months to prepare for the grueling interviews at the national convention in November. Preparation may include extemporaneous speaking, sharpening communication and social skills, quizzes, mock press conferences—anything that may help the candidate become more "polished."

The office-seeker fills out a national

officer application, consisting of detailed FFA, leadership and SOEP information, plus an essay on "Why I Desire to Serve as National Officer" and submits it to the national office. When the applications are received, the national FFA office checks the candidate's eligibility (i.e., the nominee must have earned the American Farmer degree) and prepares suggested questions for the nominating committee to use during the interviews. Usually there are about 30 to 35 candidates each year.

The Interviews: *torture might be a better description.*

Held in a room adjacent to the sweat box, the interview sessions have already been described by some as "mind-boggling" and "nerve-wracking." It is Wednesday evening. By now, everyone has been interviewed at least once. Nervous "good lucks" beckon from fellow candidates as another is escorted into "the room."

Having gained permission to do so earlier, I slip quietly in to listen. It is a small room, devoid of much color, except for the American and FFA flags in one corner. The nine committee members are positioned around a conference table with two advisors behind an adjacent corner desk. The questioning begins.

It is at this moment that a candidate's poise becomes evident or not. Most appear calm. Others try desparately to hide the shake in their voice, or a quivering hand. It is the fear of the unknown: what will they ask me? Am I ready? What do I do if I don't know the answer?

It quickly becomes apparent that the committee will not purposely embarrass or humiliate a candidate. What it will *do, however, is probe a candidate's FFA and agricultural knowledge; test poise, attitude and expression through a candidate's voice; and check appearance, attitude and personality.*

"I've spoken in front of several FFA audiences . . . up to 20,000 people," one candidate confessed to me later. "But I've never been so shaken as that first interview in front of nine people." Why? "For me, it was a realization that my career, as far as the FFA is concerned, is almost dependent on the outcome of these interviews."

"In all honesty, I came out shaking," another candidate says. "It's been a long time since I've been that shaken."

The members of the nominating committee are selected by the current national officers and confirmed by the national FFA Board of Directors. This committee consists of two state delegates from each of four regions, plus one delegate-at-large acting as chairman of the committee. The state delegates are normally state officers. Politicking committee members is impossible, since the committee is not announced until the convention. (Until then, those names are so "top secret" even committee members themselves don't know they will serve.)

The committee is advised by Mr. Jim Warren, of the National FFA Board of Directors and Dr. Jim Clouse, professor of Agricultural Education at Virginia Tech. Both men have been advising the committee for over ten years.

"Dr. Clouse and I work together to make sure they [committee members] have good, substantive questions that will give good, substantive factual answers," says Mr. Warren. "We're called on when they need a clarification on a problem, so they can understand it and make their own decision. We never do anything that would influence their vote," he continues. "All of the decisions are made on an individual vote and they never know how each other votes—so they never influence each other through a vote."

The committee works from Tuesday through Friday, pausing only "to eat and sleep," as one member puts it. By the end, they will have worked between 40 and 45 hours together—evidence of the meticulous and thorough screening process with which they are challenged.

"All the candidates are well qualified," says one of this past year's committee members. "To me, it's a tribute to the

(Continued on Page 33)

Late nights in the hot box: "I think the most difficult part of the whole process is not the questions, but the waiting until you're called in."

Some make it . . . but some don't

The phrase "Many are called but few are chosen" may have one of its greatest applications as a national officer candidate. To lose is never fun or easy, but each year, several candidates must face losing their bid for national office.

"So few people out of the ones that run, win," agrees one former national officer candidate who wasn't elected. "And it's a real devestation to not be a national officer when you've wanted to be one for four or five years."

After a week of intense pressure-cooker interviews, of a constant battle to "psyche yourself up" and then to not make it, the loss can be crushing.

"I had decided I wanted to be a national officer when I was a junior in high school," the former candidate continues.

"I came out of the interviews feeling like I had done the best I ever had—and then to be told my best, after all that time, was not good enough?

"I wondered: did I not try hard enough? Did I not want it bad enough? On the other hand, I felt satisfied when it was over, because I never misrepresented myself," the candidate remembers. "For me, sincerity was the key and that's why I don't regret it now."

In most cases, the loss provides a very valuable lesson.

"I wouldn't trade what happened for anything, because it taught me to put my money where my mouth is," the former candidate reflects. "I've consoled FFA members before who had lost and told them not to quit; all of a sudden I had to 'not quit.'

"There are lots of different ways to serve. You can work within your state, apply for a counselor position at Washington Conference and join the FFA Alumni—if you really want to serve the FFA, you can."

One might think there would be some initial bitterness toward the nominating committee. That may be true in some cases, but not for this candidate.

"I could sense respect from the nominating committee every time I went in," the former state officer says. "They never asked me a shallow question, and that kind of attitude is just as important in local chapter officer interviews as it is at national convention."

If All Else Fails, Read the Directions

Here's a look at how technical writers put those operator's manuals together

Technical writers at John Deere draw upon years of experience dismantling and reassembling components.

WHEN you buy a new piece of farm equipment, you also receive an operator's manual that explains the function of all controls, maintenance requirements and safety procedures. The manual is an excellent source of information that can help you prevent accidents and breakdowns and help you use your tractor or implement properly to get the job done fast.

It can help you do all those things *only if you read it.* But many busy people don't have time to read a long book on what most consider to be a "dry" subject. At John Deere technical writers are in the process of revamping their operator's manuals to reduce words and increase pictures, making it possible for people to read the manuals in a lot less time. Deere calls the new technique ILLUSTRUCTION. It's based on the Chinese proverb "one picture is worth a thousand words."

When deciding what pictures and captions to put in a manual, a technical writer relies on a thorough knowledge of the product and its components. The writer will have actually dismantled many components, such as an engine or transmission, stripping them right down to basic parts. The writer uses this mechanical background and product familiarity to explain basic functions simply and clearly.

To make notes on a new product, the writer discusses service and maintenance procedures with the engineers who designed it. Maintenance performed on a regular schedule helps prolong the life of equipment and helps improve the trade-in value. It's a good idea for the owner to keep a record of the maintenance work performed and the date it was done. Such a record of oil changes and other service work noted in the manual itself can help the owner get a better price for his tractor when he sells it, or make a better deal when he trades it in for a new one.

Some writers use all kinds of equipment just as an owner would. The writer also performs basic maintenance to keep the equipment humming. So when the writer begins to compose the text of the manual and determines what photographs or drawings will best illustrate the important points, he draws upon years of training and experience.

The completed manuscript is reviewed for accuracy and clarity. Sometimes the writer dismantles a component to double-check a questionable point. Design engineers and service technicians check the text for accuracy. Sometimes the manual is given to a few non-technical people to read as a check for ease of comprehension. These are techniques that help reduce the information to a concise, easy-to-read operator's manual.

After the manual is printed, it is subject to future reviews. As dealers and customers work with a new product, changes in the manual are occasionally recommended. Sometimes the product itself is revised because design engineers add a new feature or an improved component. When this happens, the operator's manuals are replaced by a revised manual, helping ensure that the customer receives the most up-to-date information for his new machine.

John Deere manuals contain a postage-paid return postcard that gives the customer a chance to point out any problem areas. Every postcard received is read and answered. Technical writers appreciate receiving this feedback from customers and encourage people to send them any questions that may help improve either the product or the operator's manual.

"You asked for a larger paycheck and you got it. Now what's the complaint, Hooper?"

The next time you buy a new tractor or other implement, insist on receiving an operator's manual and read it carefully before using the equipment. Even if you have operated similar equipment for years, it's a good idea to read the latest information just in case the manufacturer has added an important safety device or revised the maintenance requirements.

After reading the manual, put it in a place where you can find it easily when you have a question. It's a good idea to keep a file of all your operator's manuals for kitchen appliances, power tools and utility room appliances. That way, all are in one area and you'll know exactly where to find the manual you need.

When it comes time to store your equipment for a period of several months, reread the section of the manual that tells you how. For gasoline-engine machines to start quickly, perform dependably and last a long time, you should drain all gasoline out of the fuel system and add a gasoline storage stabilizer before storing the equipment for winter. Other tips are to add a little oil to the cylinders to prevent rust; change crankcase oil to ensure efficient lubrication of vital engine parts; retouch scratched paint; tighten any loose bolts and screws; and clean the spark plug electrode. If a tractor is put on blocks to take the weight off the tires, the tires will last longer. Be sure all safety devices are in place and working properly.

These are valuable suggestions that even experienced mechanics tend to ignore; yet following these suggestions can save problems in spring, help prevent costly breakdowns and prolong the life of your equipment. •••

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What's New In

AGRICULTURE

Above, the 7710 from the Ford Motor Company, just one of a new ten-model "series 10" line of tractors for 1982. The new line is a result of a five-year, $100 million program and is the company's most extensive model change since 1975, featuring a new front-end appearance and graphics.

Above: J I Case introduces the 1816C series Uni-Loader skid steer loader, featuring a two-cylinder, air cooled engine. Compact design of the 1816C allows it to clear openings less than seven feet high and over three feet wide.

Above, the new three-cylinder, 19-horsepower tractor model B8200 from Kubota Tractor Corporation offers compact size and maneuverability to farmers, growers and livestock operators. The B8200's transmission provides nine forward and three reverse speeds; available in 2- or 4-wheel drive.

At left, the Allen 8245 Quad, a four basket hydraulic power drive rake, can rake four 16-foot windrows into one in a single pass. It features a 45-foot rake span and hydraulically folds up to transport width of 13 feet 7 inches.

Below, FARMHAND, Inc., has restyled their entire grinder mixer line with the introduction of the new hydraulic 100 bushel 817 model. The 817 is also available with corn sheller which shells, or shells, grinds and mixes in one operation.

Above: White Farm Equipment Company introduces a narrow-row planting system. The 5100S Soybean Special, attached to a White Seed Boss planter, gives solid-seeded productivity while maintaining advantages of row-crop.

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Running

(Continued from Page 27)

Future Farmers of America organization, that we have been able to develop outstanding state leaders to try to apply their skills at the national level. Just the fact they're here . . . is something that will insure our future as an organization."

Now it is Friday, one day before the announcement. The committee was in session until past midnight yesterday and each candidate has been before the committee at least four times by now. I asked one what the feeling was among the candidates.

"I think we feel in three days all the emotions we've felt in six or seven years," he says. "It's an emotional yo-yo." Reactions to the interviews are just as varied.

"I think you get the whole spectrum of emotions," a candidate tells me. "Some will come back laughing and some will just come back, sit down in their seat and not a word from them."

"A lot of times you have to comfort one another when someone gets down, sometimes you have to cheer different people up," says another, "and sometimes when they come out real excitea, you have to bring them back down to reality." Although this is one of the most competitive events FFA offers, most all candidates are supportive. "We're not competing against each other, we're competing against ourselves," most say.

One candidate says the week has taught him a lot about "mind games."

"The interview gets your mind racing and you start to worry, and when you worry you start to get nervous and it all starts to go downhill," he says. "The best thing to do after an interview is just to forget about it."

I asked a candidate what he would do if he were not elected.

"If I am not elected as a national officer, then it was meant to be that way," he says philosophically. "I know that's an old cliche and it's said over and over again, but I mean that. If I don't get elected here, then I was meant to do something else.

"The only way I will feel frustrated is if I know I didn't do the very best I could," he adds. "I think if anyone comes to this event with a feeling of apprehension about getting elected, they're really in the wrong place," he continues. "I've prepared NOT *for the interview, but rather, to become a national officer."*

Now it is Saturday morning; the interviews are finished. The candidates, no longer huddled in their familiar hot box, wait anxiously in seats on the auditorium floor, waiting for that moment when six names float across the auditorium's loudspeaker. Some appear relaxed, confident; some pat each other reassuringly on the back. Many have made life-long friends here in these few short days, and almost all will carry home life-long memories.

Although interviews are over, this may be the worst moment for candidates. It is a lonely group of nervous FFA members; although surrounded by others, each is alone—alone with their thoughts; did I do my best? Will I leave here as a national officer? Will the moment ever arrive?

Now the committee chairman speaks: ". . . We, the nominating committee, have given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants running for national office. . . ." Tension swells, the crowd becomes anxious, silent. The candidates take each other's hands and raise them high above their heads almost as if giving a final curtain call. " . . . the committee nominates the following slate of candidates to serve as national officers for the year nineteen-eighty-one, eighty-two: for the office of . . . ." •••

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Cycling For Safety

Are you and your motorcycle ready to head for wide open spaces? If so, check out these tips to help prepare yourself for the riding season

If you're a motorcycle owner, that first whiff of spring starts you thinking about all the great rides ahead in the coming months. You probably can't wait to take off for country roads, nice scenery and the feel of the open air.

But, wait a minute. Are you and your bike ready? Sure, you've cleaned up the rust spots on the chrome, but are there any rusty spots in your skills? If you're like many riders around the country, motorcycling isn't a 12-month practice. Bad weather and cold temperatures may cut your riding down by three to five months. And that could mean your skills have gotten a little rusty over the winter. Chances are your bike needs an inspection—especially if you haven't ridden much in the past five months.

First, dig out your owner's manual and take a look at what it suggests. Your bike probably needs a complete tune-up if you haven't ridden for several months—that may require a visit to your local repair shop if you don't want to do it yourself.

But there are a few things you can do yourself—even if you're not mechanically inclined. You should run through them every time before you ride—not just when you start out on the first day of spring.

Every time you ride you should check these things: tires, power chain, cables, lights, horn, oil and fuel levels and the kickstand.

It only takes a few minutes and probably won't involve any mechanical work, but once you do it you'll know your bike is safe and ready to go.

Check your clutch, throttle and brake cables. Are they frayed, loose or needing adjustment? The control you have over your motorcycle depends on this check, so don't skip it. Check by squeezing the clutch and front brake levers. Rotate the throttle to see if it's working right.

Try the switches to make sure the headlight, taillight, turn signals and horn are working. Next, try both brakes to check the brake light. Your headlight may have gotten out of adjustment—check to see if it should be lowered or raised.

Check your tank for gas and look at the dip stick for the oil level. If you have a two-stroke machine, check the window on the oil-reserve tank.

Check your chain for wear and proper adjustment. Make sure it's well lubricated. The chain should have about three quarters of an inch free play in it. Your owner's manual will give you the details on how to check whether your chain is too loose.

Check your tires and wheel rims for wear. And, most important, make sure your tires are properly inflated. Besides giving you a poor ride, incorrect air pressure can affect the handling of your cycle and cause increased wear on your tires. Check your tire tread for cuts and uneven wear. Look at the depth of the tire tread. You may need to replace your tires if they show signs of wear. If you are getting a bumpy or uneven ride, you may need your wheels balanced and aligned.

What About You?

Once your bike's in good working order, what about you? Sure, you feel great, but if you haven't been riding for a few months your skills may not be what they were last summer.

Before you head out on the open road, take your bike to an empty parking lot or an area where you can practice without fear of traffic.

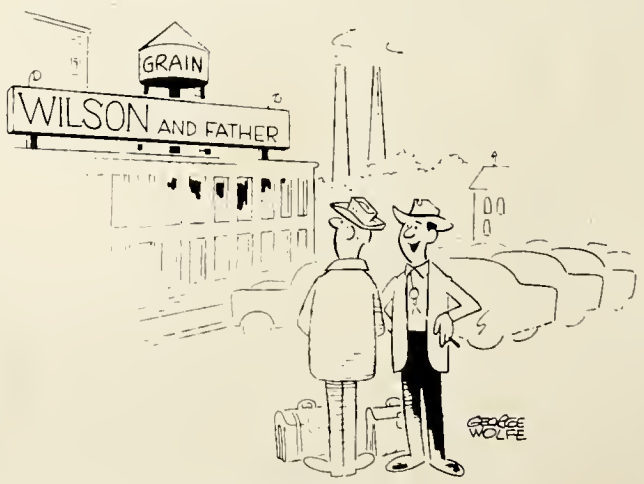
Try out your braking skills. Are you using both brakes simultaneously when you stop? Try stopping while traveling at different speeds.

Try cornering. Remember to look in the direction of the turn—where you want the motorcycle to go. Slow down before you start to turn, either by downshifting or braking. Lean with your motorcycle in the turn. After you complete the turn, resume your speed by continuing to accelerate.

What about your evasive maneuvers? You never know when there's going to be an obstacle in the road ahead of you—a box may fall off a truck or a muffler may land in front of you. Countersteering is the technique you'll need here. You might want to set up an exercise in the parking lot to make sure you can handle these situations, too.

Planning to ride with a passenger? Remember that passengers have a big effect on the way your cycle handles. An inexperienced passenger can throw a motorcycle off balance by leaning the wrong way when you're riding. You may

(Continued on Page 36)



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Cycle Safety

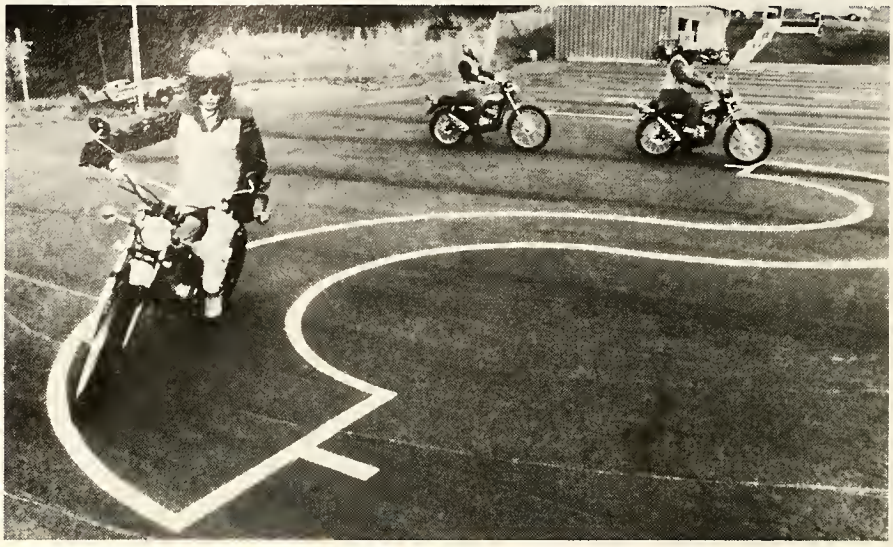
(Continued from Page 34)

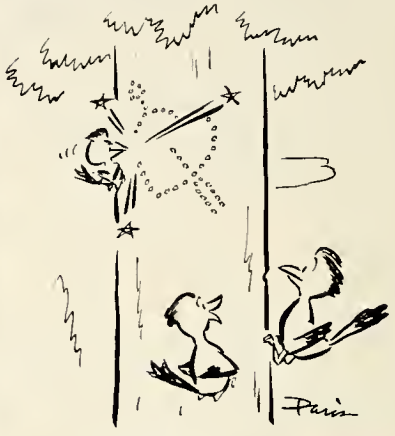
want to take a few turns around the parking lot with a passenger on the back before you ride in traffic.

If practice shows your skills aren't what you think they should be, you might consider enrolling in a rider training course. The Motorcycle Rider Course is available for beginning riders and the Better Biking Program reviews advanced skills for experienced riders. Both are sponsored by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. If you can't find a course in your area, write the foundation for the location of the course nearest you.

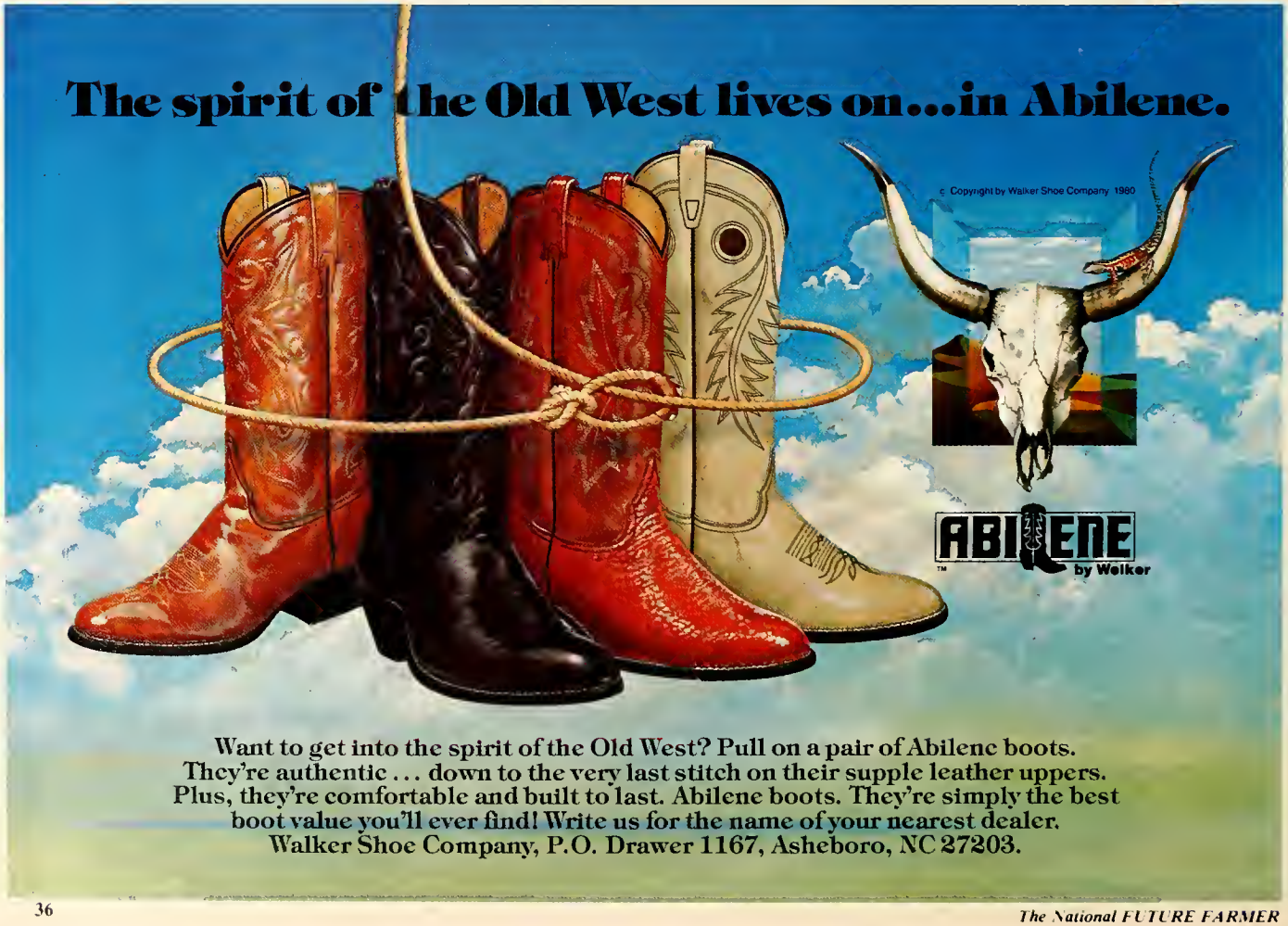
The foundation also has a book, *The Challenge of Motorcycling: A Guide for the New Street Rider,* which gives tips and details on safe riding and maintenance. It's available for $2 from the foundation or your local motorcycle dealer's shop. And, if you send in a self-addressed stamped enveloped you can request a free pocket maintenance and trouble shooting guide from the foundation. All are available by writing to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, 780 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland 21090. •••

Before hitting the open road, try taking your bike through some evasive manuevers in an empty parking lot where you can practice withut fear of traffic. You also might want to consider enroiling in a rider trainer course, such as the *Motorcycle Rider Course,* or *Better Biking Program.*





"Sure sign of spring!"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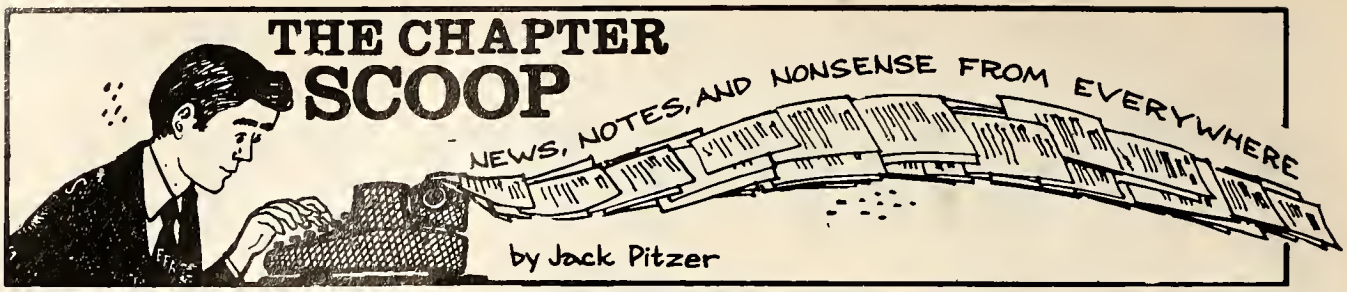


Reporter **Roland Fisher** reported plans for a pig roast at *Pleasant Hill*, OH, parent-member banquet.

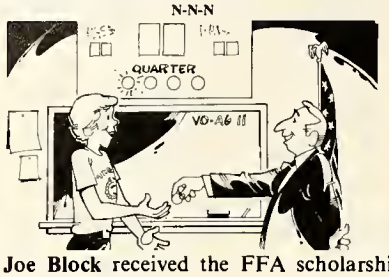
N-N-N

In *Elkton*, SD, the FFA and the FHA chapters decided to combine activities. They held a joint picnic and hayride, followed by separate meetings. They also held the annual FFA pancake supper and FHA carnival on the same night.

N-N-N

Hampshire, IL, Chapter collects clothing and toys for Goodwill to distribute.

N-N-N



Joe Block received the FFA scholarship award at *Rocori*, MN, Chapter for the first quarter.

N-N-N

Former *Iowa* State President **Chuck Howlett,** now an Elanco salesman in ND, is working with chapters in his sales territory to organize test plots.

N-N-N

Cory-Rawson, OH, Food For America extends to an actual farm tour of machinery, crops and livestock.

N-N-N

Kevin McPherson, reporter, sends word that *Blennerhassett* Chapter in Parkersburg, WV, held its very first banquet in January.

N-N-N

FFA in *Woodstock,* VA, collected $500 worth of food for the Shenandoah County welfare department's use.

N-N-N

Eleven members of *Stephenson,* MI, Chapter attended an A.I. clinic.

N-N-N

A Greenhand scavenger hunt was a program feature for *Walnut,* IA, FFA.

N-N-N

Fruit sale records of *Ankeny,* IA, FFA are kept on a computer.

N-N-N

Since it was semester break, *Waverly,* NE's, livestock judging team stayed over and went snow skiing for a couple of days after competing at National Western.

N-N-N

Stuart Young is 25th president of *Greenon* FFA in Clark County, OH. His dad was one of the charter members 25 years ago.

N-N-N

Spooner, WI, Chapter donates 25 pounds of cheese to the Christmas Open House at their school. It's an event where students and faculty are given time during the day to attend. FFA is proud to report that the cheese goes before the cookies.

N-N-N

Fifty *Berryville,* AR, members had a skating party in Branson, MO.

White Swan, WA, has made a change in direction for Greenhand initiation—from the prankster image to official ceremony with official dress. Seems wise for 1982.

N-N-N

Both *Auburndale Senior* and *Junior* Chapters in FL set up exhibits to show their community the purposes of vocational agriculture.

N-N-N

State troopers have promised no tickets if a car doesn't pass inspection in FFA sponsored auto safety check in *Zillah,* WA.

N-N-N

Money to send *Elgin,* OR, delegates to state convention was earned by raffling a woodburning stove made by members.

N-N-N

Their delegates along with *LaGrande* and *Union,* OR, went to national convention by motor homes.

N-N-N

Alvin, TX, members in cooperation with county soil and water leaders, transported 10,000 pine trees to a beach in Freeport, TX. Trees will hold back sand dunes on the beach.

N-N-N

Greenhands in *Colchester,* IL, are conducting a wood heat safety survey.

N-N-N

Thomas, OK, Advisor **Beadles** took **Brian Waggoner** and **Robert Cagg** to the university campus to look it over and find out about ag programs for them.

N-N-N

Members of *Wauseon,* OH, built two wooden park benches for senior citizens to sit on and rest at the Chief Supermarket.

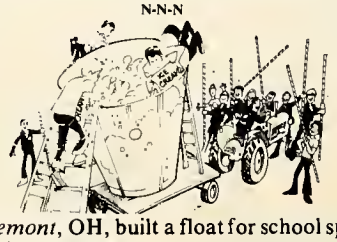
N-N-N

Terry, TX, FFA has a Greenhand Olympics—relay race, water balloon toss, tobacco spitting contest, tug-of-war. They followed the fun with formal ceremony, then a meal.

N-N-N

Hallsville, TX, auctions off merchandise donated by local firms to raise money.

N-N-N



Fremont, OH, built a float for school spirit week in November.

N-N-N

Leland, MS, is proud to tell the news of chapter growth from 52 to 86 members!

N-N-N

It's advisors and advisory council vs chapter members in a big softball game in *Gainesville,* FL.

N-N-N

Auburn, AL, Collegiate Chapter sponsors the alumni Sears pig chain show and sale. Exhibitors have all previously shown in one of the state's major shows and the one with the most points accumulated at those fairs gets premier exhibitor trophy.

An annual work day for *Big Walnut,* OH, members earns money for the chapter and gives new work experiences to FFA'ers. Everyone works at some agricultural job. They each pay the chapter $8 from their salaries. Jobs included cleaning shops, clearing land, pouring concrete.

N-N-N

Poolville, TX, Chapter organized a practice livestock judging contest for any other chapters who were interested. No fees. Chapters could bring as many members as they wanted.

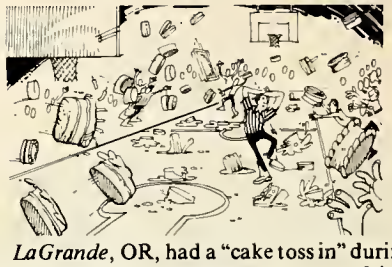
N-N-N

Eight members of *Holdenville,* OK, had a weekend meats judging class and practice livestock judging workout.

N-N-N

Juniors and seniors of *Las Animas,* CO, FFA set up a booth for a community show about bicycle safety—especially about safe riding rules. The booth won a grand champion ribbon.

N-N-N



LaGrande, OR, had a "cake toss in" during their donkey basketball game. It was half time entertainment. Anybody in the crowd who wanted, and paid, could try to shoot a basket while on a donkey. If they made a shot, they won a cake.

N-N-N

Wauseon, OH, sponsors an FFA basketball tourney each year with a second-round playoff and trophies.

N-N-N

Oshkosh North FFA in WI mails their chapter newsletter with an official postal service bulk mailing permit. Good economy.

N-N-N

Officers of *Elkton,* SD, took Advisor **Brendon** out for a steak supper to thank him for all the pancakes he made at early morning "parly pro" practice sessions. Practices and pancakes must have paid off since team won at state.

N-N-N

Guess they nailed down the tables 'cause they might have been sold in *Socorro,* NM, Alumni Association "everything" auction to raise money for an FFA pickup.

N-N-N

Bridgewater, SD, FFA taught CPR for 8th-12th grades.

N-N-N

Advisor **Lindley** of *Morton,* IL, was interviewed for "That's Incredible" during Farm Progress Show this fall.

N-N-N

•When the good things happen in your chapter, write and tell us the details. Program ideas, recreation ideas, scholarship ideas, earnings and savings ideas, publicity ideas.

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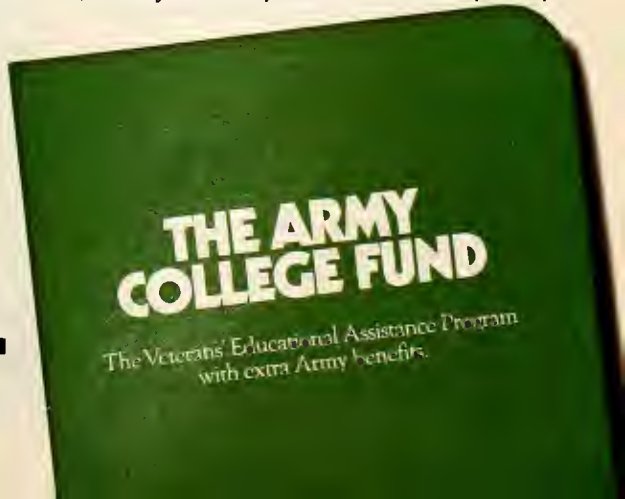

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Ambition and early success in the electric business are two reasons why Jim Loven is . . .

Climbing

Photos by Author

As an electrician, Jim finds himself in several unusual places. Above, he heads toward a job on top of a new grain bin; above right, Jim sets to work on a new service box; at right, once again up in the air with his ever-present screwdriver.

Higher Toward His Goal

By Michael Wilson

JIM Loven is like a live wire—he's full of energy.

And trying to keep up with the energetic Cannon Falls, Minnesota, FFA member isn't easy. If he's not out shinnying up utility poles or working on circuit breakers, you can almost bet he's fixing or installing electrical gizmos somewhere. Why? The reason is simple: Jim's goal is to be an "A master" electrician. And if his previous accomplishments are any indication, he's well on his way toward success.

Jim is typical of the young, ambitious self-starter in today's progressive businesses. He began taking his interest in electricity seriously five years ago when he became an apprentice electrician for his father's business. At the same time, he made his work part of a Supervised Occupational Experience Program in the Future Farmers of America. His lofty ambitions have led to FFA recognition on chapter, state and regional levels of competition in Agricultural Electrification. His goal to earn national recognition materialized last November when Jim was named national proficiency winner in Agricultural Electrification. For Jim, it's only the beginning.

"My goal is to own my own small business and contract my own work," he says. So far, his credentials fit perfectly. Terms like "amp meter" and "continuity tester" have become a second language for the 18-year-old Minnesotan, partly because of his background. He grew up surrounded by the electric business and was involved with his father's vocation as a youngster.

"When my father and I were still working together, I was working my way into part ownership," Jim asserts. Jim's father sensed his son's keen interest in electricity and began giving him more and more responsibility. Jim soon began preparing bids for contracts, and provided capital for equipment and expansion. After his father's death, Jim apprenticed at Skillestad Electric, Inc., where he currently works. He began there his senior year through a cooperative work program at Cannon Falls High School.

Like any well thought out plan, Jim has mapped out specific steps which he plans to pursue to become a full-fledged, independent electrician. He's ready, after two years of apprenticeship, to take the first in a series of four tests: applying for his "B journeyman" license next fall. In another year he will take his "B master" test; and the following year, his "A journeyman" test.

If he makes it through all of these, by his fifth year of apprenticeship he'll be ready for his final step, the examination for the "A master" license.

There's one more "hitch:" he must pass 70 percent of all tests to earn any license.

"Once I pass all these tests and receive my A master's, I'll be on my own," the sandy-haired FFA'er says with conviction. "But right now, the biggest challenge will be passing the tests for my licenses."

"The cardinal rule when working with electricity is to turn off the power," says Jim.

Throughout his experience as an apprentice, Jim says he's realized the vital importance and need for safety.

"Electricity can be a very dangerous thing," he cautions. "I've always felt if you don't know what you're doing, you should find out or leave it alone."

"The cardinal rule when working with electricity is to *turn off the power*," he stresses. "If you have to have work done with the power still 'hot,' then have an expert do it."

Jim says it's always important to wear proper equipment, such as leather or rubber-soled shoes and rubber gloves. "We incorporate a lot of safety into our work," he says. This includes hard hats, safety belts (for pole and bin work), safety glasses when needed and dust masks for inside grain bins.

Another important safety factor is to avoid any type of "ground"—that is, anything connected to the earth. "That way," says Jim, "the power will not go through your body."

No matter how much attention you pay to safety, Jim says, common sense is still the best judgement.

"Common sense tells you you don't put a penny into a fuse socket to override the fuse," he says. "Using your common sense, intuition and experience can go a long way in telling you what to do and what not to do."

Jim enjoys all aspects of the electric business, but he says working on utility and telephone pole tops is his specialty. "When I worked for my father, he had a ladder truck and he preferred that I did the pole work. Guess I got to like working up in the air," he says with a laugh.

"I also enjoy putting in new electrical services," the State Farmer adds. Jim has had extensive experience in new installations, wiring homes, farm buildings, specialized grain facilities; he's installed receptacles, hung fixtures, hooked up circuits and put in service boxes. "I think working out in rural areas, we get a lot more variances in what we do," he says. "I like getting out into the community and meeting people."

"Jim had our normal training in ag mechanics and elementary electricity," says his advisor John Hobert. He put his interest to good use on the Cannon Falls Ag Mechanics team, leading the team three consecutive years. He was named top individual in the region as a senior.

"I'm particularly proud of him because I had a concern that Jim might quit after his father's death, but it stimulated his interest in the field even more," Hobert says. "He's one of the top students I've had as far as SOE programs go."

Jim's well-planned climb to the top of the professional ladder will no doubt proceed smoothly. He's prepared himself for the challenge, taking advantage of a father's experience and excellent vocational training at Cannon Falls. Add to that Jim's desire and ambition to stride forward in the profession and you come up with one agribusinessman well on his way toward reaching his goals. ●●●

FFA IN ACTION

Raising the American flag before football games has become a tradition at Mid-Prairie High School. Standing in formation from left to right are Steve Berger, Sandy Sleichter, Terry Waters, Rollin Brenneman and Kevin Rice.

MARCHING THE RED, WHITE, BLUE AND GOLD

The Mid-Prairie FFA Chapter from Wellman, Iowa, has taken their beliefs in patriotism and put them into action by forming a color guard.

Mid-Prairie's FFA color guard is made up of five members wearing official dress who carry the United States, Iowa and FFA flags. The color guard performs mainly with its high school marching band at several events throughout the year. Since forming the color guard ten years ago, many of the chapter's members have had the chance to participate in the unique group which demonstrates patriotism and citizenship.

Raising the American flag at football games has become a tradition at Mid-Prairie. The school's band department and the color guard work together both in practices and performances. Besides promoting the FFA locally at school events, the FFA flag is proudly carried by the color guard at parades, leading the school band. Each year the guard marches in the St. Patrick's Day Parade held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where thousands of people line the street to watch as well as view on television. The color guard also made an appearance at Adventureland, a popular amusement park located in Des Moines.

The color guard not only marches in parades or before football games, but also appears at public events wearing official jackets. One occasion was a flag-raising at a grand opening of an agribusiness where the color guard served as an honor guard for Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture Robert Lounsberry and his staff. *(Steve Berger, Reporter)*

FOUR WAY SPLIT

For more than 40 years the Seneca, Illinois, FFA has carried on community activities which have included livestock auctions. This FFA activity began when the chapter was given a building formerly used for ship-building activities along the Illinois River. Mr. Jackson, the ag teacher, his students and some of the community members split the building into sections and pieced it back together on its present location which is owned by the town of Seneca.

Swine sales, sheep sales and club calf sales are the common types of sales held, but frequently sales such as white elephant and flea markets have been held in the FFA barn sale.

The best known sale is the Seneca Club Calf Sale which usually grosses between $40,000 - $50,000 annually. This year the top selling animal was a Polled Hereford sold at $1,200. Most of the money from this sale goes back to the consigner.

FFA members gain valuable experiences in cooperation, communications, and community service through this unusual chapter activity.

Seneca's current FFA president is Les Maierhofer whose family helped erect the Seneca FFA Sale Barn a generation ago.

FOOD PAYS THE BILL

FFA members from the Colquitt County, Georgia, Chapter have raised enough money from their food service tent over the last four years at the annual Sun Belt Agricultural Expo to construct a building for vo-ag near their new demonstration plots on the school grounds. The expo usually brings in about 200,000 people from all across the south and southeast.

"Each year we have about 120 members work over a three-day period—40 members at the food tent each day," according to Advisor R.D. Coleman. Last year they made "somewhere in the neighborhood of $11,000."

"With this money we made at the expo, we built a 100-foot by 40-foot building to be our vocational agricultural lab." This $22,000 building provides room or facilities for students who couldn't have an SOE at home.

About half of the space will be used for demonstrations in livestock management such as castration, dehorning, implanting and the like.

Also the building will be used for a storage area for the chapter's livestock trailers, storage of teaching materials in the ag mechanics lab, and even storing grills for the father-son banquet.

The acreage directly adjacent to the building is used for Christmas tree plots, horticultural and crops classes, fruits and vegetables, mini-gardens for students in class and a nursery orchard of apples and peaches.

The Colquitt County Chapter has 374 members with five vo-ag instructors and 100 percent FFA membership.

WOOD FESTIVAL BARBEQUE

Our Calhoun Chapter in Grantsville, West Virginia, together with the FHA operated a booth at the Calhoun Wood Festival. We purchased the chicken and corn from a local produce wholesaler. The FFA roasted the chicken and roasting ears and the FHA sold it from a concession stand along with cole slaw, chips and drinks.

For three days during the festival we started the charcoal fire and had the chicken and roasting ears ready by the time people began arriving.

The people purchased the meals at the stand, where we had set up tables for their use. We did not sell tickets—anyone could purchase the chicken and corn. Many people from all over the county and many surrounding areas, who were visiting the Wood Festival, enjoyed the barbequed meal. And our chapter made good money. *(Brian Fluharty, Reporter)*

FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE IN ONE DAY

The second annual "FFA Day" sponsored by the Delaware Valley College Collegiate Chapter attracted nearly 200 high school juniors and seniors. The program is designed to familiarize the high school'ers with the types of programs offered at Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, in agricultural sciences.

Following the opening remarks, the students were divided into groups and toured the college's agricultural facilities to see the greenhouses, food industry laboratories, the horticulture department, the agronomy division, the dairy farm and the college's livestock production area.

Beside the ag tours, students were able to tour the dormitories to see how and where college students live.

(Continued on Page 44)

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FFA IN ACTION

(Pick up ACTION from Page 42)

Students came from high schools in Pennsylvania: Western Wayne High School, Walter Biddle Saul High School, William Tennant High School, and Lehigh County ATVS; and from New Jersey: Northern Burlington County Regional, Hunterdon Central High School, North Hunterdon High School and Oakcrest High School. *(Lance Forster, Jr., Collegiate Reporter)*

A SPANISH TRADITION FOR FFA

When most Americans are thinking of turkey and ham as a traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner, Hispanic Americans turn their thoughts to a "pig matanza." The Belen, New Mexico, FFA Chapter, with a membership over 50 percent Hispanic, has continued this traditional feast for a number of years.

Just what is a "pig matanza?" Traditionally, it is a family, friend, neighbor get-together much like a barbeque. Instead of beef the primary meat is pork.

The day starts off about 6:30 in the morning by building a huge fire to heat the water to a boiling point for scalding the hair off the pig. A good size pig weighing approximately 300 pounds is needed. A big

Belen FFA members cutting up meat for "chicharones."

pig is needed because anywhere from 150 to 200 persons will have to be served.

About 10 or 15 of the older FFA members will kill and scald the pig. This usually takes about one hour.

By around 8:30 a.m. the fun and eating starts. The liver, heart and kidneys are the first things cooked over the charcoal grills (which were built in the ag shop).

The outside fat is now removed from the rest of the carcass and rendered to produce the chicharones (pork cracklings) which is one of the delicacies of a matanza.

Once the fat is removed from the carcass, strips of meat are cut off and cooked on the charcoal grills. Everybody just joins in and cuts and cooks their own.

Strips of pork are also cut and dipped in red chili and grilled for the main meal. Every member participates in bringing food for the main meal which consists of chili pork, chili, pinto beans, fried potatoes, Spanish rice, salad, flour tortillas, chicharon burritos, all kinds of desserts, coffee brewed over an open fire, and sopapillas (fried bread).

The objective of the whole matanza is to eat the whole pig. This objective is not too hard to accomplish when you have over 100 members and many guests. The guests are usually teachers, administrators and friends of the FFA. It serves as a good public relations tool. Many of our FFA friends look forward to being invited to the matanza.

ARABIAN NIGHTS IN ALBUQUERQUE

The Fallbrook, California, FFA horse team consisting of Noelle Alexander, Pennie Brookshier, Lori Dilliard and Mary Gillen attended the Arabian Nationals in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for three days and nights in October. The Arabian Nationals has a youth judging contest in which the FFA horse team participated and took the national title for the FFA and 4-H division. Each team member was awarded a $250 scholarship.

Mary Gillen won the title for the best Arabian horse judge in the contest and was awarded a western saddle and a $750 scholarship. The contest classes were: two halter mares classes, two halter geldings classes, two halter stallions classes, western pleasure, English pleasure, stock horse and pleasure driving. Along with those classes the team judged four sets of reasons.

The Fallbrook community supported the horse team so they could attend the event. *(Pennie Brookshier, Reporter)*

STEERS, STRAW, SUPPORT

Five members of the Montgomery County, Kentucky, FFA Chapter had no idea a few months ago they would be showing steers in 1982 until they learned they could get a steer, show equipment, transportation to shows, and straw for bedding absolutely free. In addition to that a $100 prize would be given to the individual who did the best job with his calf. All they were to furnish was the feed for the calf.

This was made possible by Doris H.

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THE GOVERNOR IN OFFICE

Steve Morrison (at left), Arkansas state president of FFA, and Randy Hedge (at right), national vice-president Southern Region, visit with Governor Frank White in his office just prior to the Christmas holidays.

Members chose their show steers at the Chenault Farm. Left to right, Dwayne Browning, Greg Manley, Tony Rose, Gregory Craig and Kevin Tipton. On the far right is Chenault Farm Manager William Arnett.

Chenault from the Chenault Farms near Mount Sterling, Kentucky, who donated the calves and straw. She, along with her late husband, had already donated approximately 1.3 million dollars to the vocational agriculture department for the erection of a new agricultural complex.

Fifteen FFA members indicated they would like to have one of the calves to show. Each member then was visited by their vocational agriculture teacher to observe their facilities, work out details with their parents and fill out a detailed application. *(Anthony Smith, Advisor)*

(Continued on Page 46)

NATIONAL OFFICER *ACTION* UPDATE

The six national officers you elected in November have hit the road. They've even been to Japan since then. (But we'll tell you more about that in the next issue of the FUTURE FARMER since they were not home at the time this issue was written.) At the end of convention week, they stuck around for a couple days of briefings and training. Then they went back home to wrap up college or job obligations.

In December, they came to the National Center for two week of briefings about national programs, operation of the organization and for planning sessions as an officer team. Then they got their last long visit back home for Christmas holidays.

Their first big assignment was a Greenhand Motivational Conference in Missouri in January. These conferences do two things: (1) fire up 2,000 or so Greenhands; and (2) cause the national officers to put their skills to work as speakers, group leaders, motivators and discussion leaders. It's a learning process for everyone.

The conferences are sponsored by MFA, Incorporated, in the six districts within Missouri. State and area officers are also involved in the conferences and chapter advisors usually meet too sometime during the three-hour conference. MFA planes are used to fly the national officers from city to city in Missouri over four days.

Some of you may have run into one of the officers as they were traveling in your state during mid-January, too. President Scott Neasham went to North Carolina, Melanie Burgess to Kansas, Randy Hedge to Illinois, Scott Watson to Virginia, Jack Stewart to Kentucky and Secretary John Pope to Wisconsin. That is when they are sent to spend a week in a state association that is different than their own—as to geography, culture, maybe even climate. It is their chance to see FFA as it exists in its variety—no state does everything the same. During this time the national officers also make TV and radio appearances, speak to high schools and chapters, plus visit colleges where vo-ag teachers are trained. It's a go-hard week for the officers, but it's chuck full of experiences they can draw on for the rest of the year.

The other big thing they've been up to is the January Board of Directors meeting. They have an awesome task of absorbing all the financial and policy matters of this large corporation and member organization. Then they have to make inputs on your behalf. Some of the decisions of that meeting are reflected in this issue.

That's an update on the ACTION your national officers have seen so far. More next time.

Jack Stewart, Western vice president, spent some one-on-one time with Greenhand John Fischer.

National officers, from right, Scott Neasham, Jack Stewart and Randy Hedge, formed a greeting line for the Greenhands.

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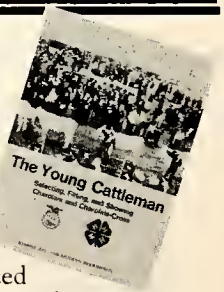

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FFA IN ACTION

(Pick up ACTION from Page 45)

RELIEF IS JUST AN AFFILIATE AWAY

How do you spell relief? At Troy, Kansas, FFA we spell it, A-L-U-M-N-I.

Last year the Troy FFA held a chili supper to initiate interest in starting an Alumni Affiliate. As it turned out, 20 people showed interest in organizing.

The Troy area is not one of affluence, but evey member was eager to help whenever and wherever they could. And they did.

This last month we needed trucks to pick up fruit at a collection point for our annual fruit sales. Again, the Alumni came to the rescue. They supplied all the vehicles and also helped unload and deliver the fruit. Members of the Alumni are also assistant coaches to help with the many teams that we have here.

They also supplied refreshments for our turkey shoot, and a sound system for our Barnwarmer Dance. *(Kenneth Tharman, Reporter, in Kansas FFA Alumni newsletter)*

A BALANCING ACT

Promoting the positive benefits of vocational education is a concern for FFA and FHA/HERO in Connecticut. A food expo at the Hartford Civic Center provided the ideal situation for the two associations to work cooperatively in telling their story and promoting a nutritious agricultural product—popcorn.

Members from across the state in each organization planned, designed and operated the booth at the expo. Members worked for three days selling popcorn and handing out over 2,500 helium-filled balloons to the passersby which were imprinted with "Agriculture—Home Economics: A Great Balance."

The clown stopped the crowd at the FFA and FHA booth.

CLASSROOM FRYERS

Sixteen whole fresh fryers were fried and eaten before the noon hour was over by various members of the Plainville, Kansas, FFA Chapter.

This activity highlighted the unit covered on the poultry industry in conjunction with preparation for the district poultry judging at Stockton.

How it works . . . two days before the district contest, a run-through mock contest is set up in the vo-ag facilities covering all parts of the contest: interior and exterior egg judging, past performance and future performance of live birds and ready-to-cook poultry.

The chicken carcasses play the key role in providing for the feast on the next day.

After all ag classes have gone through the contest, the birds are gathered back together and refrigerated 'til the next day. The next morning in the Ag II class, a lesson is given (each student with a bird) on how to cut up the birds into the ten basic cuts for frying. Students seem to really enjoy and learn from this informal lesson, simply because most are never confronted with cutting up a chicken.

Around 11:15 students manned their stations beside eight electric skillets and began flouring and frying. By 12:30, 16 carcasses had been turned into crispy golden fried chicken. *(Wayne DeWerff, Advisor)*

FACTS FOR ACTION HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND YOU

What is high blood pressure?

Your blood pushes against your blood vessels as your heart beats. Sometimes this push is too great. Then high blood pressure results.

High blood pressure can cause a stroke . . . or a heart attack . . . or kidney disease.

Who can get high blood pressure?

High blood pressure is a common problem. Anybody can have it. Young and old, men and women, relaxed people and tense people . . . anybody. If you are over 40, you have a bigger chance of having high blood pressure.

How can you tell if you have it?

You can't tell by yourself if you have it. You can feel good, or feel bad. But the way you feel does not tell you. There is only one way to find out. Have a doctor check your blood pressure.

Can you control high blood pressure?

High blood pressure usually cannot be cured. But you can control it. You can bring your blood pressure down to normal. How? By treatment—every day. Then you can lead a normal, active, health life.

If you have high blood pressure, see a doctor. The doctor can help you control your blood pressure. You may be given pills to take every day. The doctor may ask you to do other things. Like losing weight. And using less salt.

The doctor may also ask you to stop smoking. Or maybe to exercise more.

Be sure you know just what the doctor asks you to do. Ask questions to be sure. Millions of people control their blood pressure. You can, too.

National High Blood Pressure Education Program; National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; National Institutes of Health; Bethesda, Maryland 20205

ACTION LINES

- Learn how to spell maintenance.
- Try red cabbage.
- Say hi and introduce yourself to someone you don't know at camp.
- Offer to change the display in the restaurant window each week to promote agriculture.
- Recommend granola bars be added to the list of concession stand items.
- Give out FFA WEEK garden seeds.
- Buy the advisor a new file cabinet for all his paperwork.
- You be the lawn care service (free) for your grandparents.
- Put *The National FUTURE FARMER* in the town library.
- Get out chairs for the FFA meeting.
- Ask to look through your folks' wedding album.
- Talk your older sister into joining the FFA Alumni.
- Make a bowl of popcorn for the parents in the other room.
- Stop drinking so many soft drinks.

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As part of an advertising test Firestone Terp Mfg. will send any of the above truck size tarpaulins to any reader of this publication who reads and responds to this test before midnight May 2. Each tarpaulin Lot (#Z-18,PVC) is constructed of high density febric (with virgin grade ingredient, supplied by Gulf Oil Co., Dow Chemical Co., and Union Oil Co.) with nylon reinforced rope hems, double lock stiched hems, electonically welded seams, 100% water proof, #4 (½" dia.) metel grommets set on 3 ft. centers with reintorced trianguler corner petches end are recommended for all heevy duty use and all bulk or pellet riding materials, and will be accompanied with a LIFE-TIME guerantee that it must perform 100% or it wil be replaced free. Add $7 handling & crating for each terp ordered. *Firestone Terp Mfg.* pays all shipping. Should you wish to return your tarpaulins you may do so for a full refund. Any letter postmarked later than May 2 will be returned. LIMIT: Fifty (50) terps per address, no exceptions. Send appropriate sum together with your name & address to: Terp Test Dept #221G *Firestone Terp Mfg., Inc.*, 6314 Santa Monica Blvd., LA., CA 90038, for fastest service from any part of the country call collect, before midnight 7 days a week (213) 462-1914 (ask Operator for) TARP TEST #221G have credit card ready.

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—One Future Farmer's story:

Joey Beats the Drought

FACING the challenges of owning and operating a cow-calf herd can be risky business at times. But what happens when an operator must battle adverse weather conditions too? No one denies what drought can do to grain farmers. But a lack of rain can force beef operators to make tough decisions as well.

Joey Link, 19, has had to make those kinds of decisions for some time now. Joey, from the Pendleton, South Carolina, FFA Chapter, recently started farming full time in partnership with father Joseph Link, Sr. on the family's 800-acre soybean, corn, wheat and small grain farm nestled in Anderson County, 40 miles from Greensville.

"Farmer's Home Administration had a youth loan," Joey explains, "where if you're an FFA member, you could borrow money at 10½ percent interest.

"I borrowed $25,000 to purchase 46 hereford and hereford-angus cross bred beef cows," he says, then gestures behind him, "that's where that pasture full of beef cattle came from."

Now, the deep green pasture shows little sign of the events of last summer. Joey was just getting his feet wet in the beef business when the drought set in, causing problems for most of South Carolina's farmers. The Pendleton area went for weeks, even months, with little rain. Things got so bad Anderson County was declared a disaster area and Joey put in for a disaster loan.

With a limited number of resources and scarce good pastureland, Joey figured he had to do something, and fast. Rotating pastures helped, but the lack of moisture persisted.

"I rent 75 acres of pasture from dad, and during the drought, the grass just wasn't growing," Joey reflects. "We'd run the cattle on one pasture 'til they ate that down, then run them on to another. We'd feed them hay when we had it.

"We did a lot of prayin' for rain, also," he muses.

Joey says the alfalfa never grew back last spring after it was cut and baled. "I'd say we had about an 85 percent loss in grass," he estimates. "In a normal year I could bale it in spring and be able to have enough pasture to carry the cattle through the summer."

Part of the problem was solved with the purchase of an irrigation system in late spring. The decision turned out to be a good one, according to Joey. "We could really tell a difference in the pasture that we irrigated," he says.

After the Links harvested corn in the fall, Joey decided to take another step in his fight against drought, by putting electric fencing around several fields of corn stubble and letting the cattle forage on stalks. It proved, once again, to be the right move.

"During a drought year, I emphasize checking the cattle every day," the state farmer says. That means walking through the herd and keeping a close eye out for any sickness or unusual disturbances. The practice paid off one afternoon in October, when Joey found a calf dead in the pasture. The diagnosis: pneumonia.

"Dad was out of town when it happened," explains Joey, "so I got the vet and had an autopsy performed. I went out to the pasture about eight o'clock that night and found another calf down sick—and I decided I'd better do something about it."

Joey moved the cattle from the pasture to the feedlot where he corralled them and quickly proceeded to give treatment to all the stock. "The sick calf and its mother were culled out and given antibiotics for five days," he says, and the animals were soon healthy again.

Joey's management skills pulled him through last year's hardships with minimal damage. Out of 42 calves, he sold 28, leaving enough money to pay off last year's

Practice Pays Off

LAST year over 1,400 FFA members from across the country earned the right to compete at nine national judging contests in Kansas City, Missouri, during the National FFA Convention. Beginning with chapter and district contests in April, students put in countless hours of practice and study in the nine contest fields of floriculture, dairy cattle, ag mechanics, milk quality and dairy foods, farm business management, livestock, meats, nursery/landscape and poultry. Only the top team in each state may qualify for national competition.

Royce Caines, FFA advisor at Pendleton, South Carolina, knows what its like to take a team to nationals. Over the last four years, Caines has seen six Pendleton FFA judging teams go there. For Pendleton, it's become almost tradition.

"The level of competition is just tremendous at national," Mr. Caines says. "You're going against some states that specialize and train for a particular skill."

Joey Link, former chapter president, and Christy Rogers, current chapter president, were both members of Pendleton teams representing their state at national contests in 1981; Joey in Ag Mechanics and Christy in Floriculture. Both agree with Mr. Caines on the high level of competition.

"The ag mechanics contest was rough, detailed and long (about four hours)," Joey says. The teams were tested in welding, small engines, tractor power, electric motors and a skill area. Each team member also took a written test for knowledge.

"One of the areas was in trouble shooting small engines," Joey reflects. "We had 20 minutes to find out what was wrong with an engine and then make it run . . . it was difficult."

Christy Rogers

Christy says, "You have to know what you're doing. In one part of our contest, we had to do a flower arrangement—cut the flowers, fix the form and figure up the bill—all in 20 minutes."

Floriculture teams were also required to take a test, consisting of 50 questions, 50 identifications of plants, potting, taking orders over the phone and flower arrangements.

What's the key to making it to a national contest? Hours of dedicated practice, the FFA members say. Preparation began back in April, two weeks before districts, and never let up until after national contests were over in November.

"We'd just get a little better at it each time," says Joey. And although constant practice can become tedious, it can also pay off.

"I learned a lot of things from the contest," shares Christy. "You learn things through this experience that you couldn't learn in the classroom. The fellowship of being on a team, getting to know other people from different parts of the nation, getting new ideas . . . really made it worthwhile." •••

loan "plus $1,000 left over," he says. He sold the remaining 14 calves just after Christmas last year.

Joey credits much of what he knows about cattle to his farm background. But he also says his experience on FFA judging teams helped.

"The livestock judging team helped me decide what kind and type of animals to buy," says the former chapter president. "After going through training for contests and the contests themselves, you learn how to analyze the good and bad points of an animal. When I picked out the cows in my herd, I was looking for well-structured, big-boned animals with capacity for good-sized, healthy calves. The livestock judging team helped me learn to look for those qualities."

Joey was also a member of Pendleton's soil judging and ag mechanics teams. He says these FFA experiences are those that "you just can't get in a classroom." But he also says the vo-ag program helped him get "an overall view of what ag is all about."

"If agriculture fails, everything fails," Joey says. "I haven't heard of any pills yet that you add water to and you get a three-course meal."

Although he's been up against some tough times in his career, Joey remains optimistic about the future.

"I've always wanted to farm—although the future doesn't always look bright for farming, I'm still going to hang in there.

"I like the adventure of being in agriculture," he says. "It's changing all the time: there's something different every day. I like the challenge.

"Life's a gamble, but you've got to make somethin' of it," he adds. "And I see farming as the way." •••

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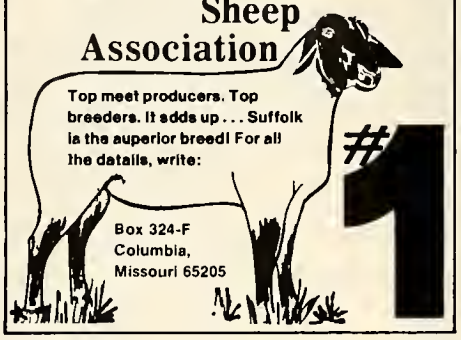

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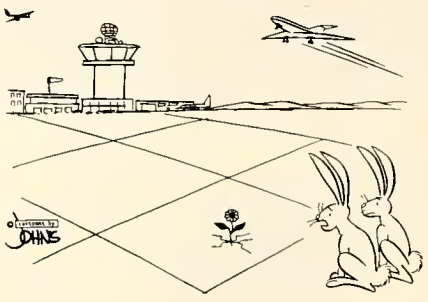
There was a snake called Nate and everybody loved him. Somewhere near his house was a lever and if anybody pulled this lever, the world would split in half. One day, a trucker was cruising down the road and was doing about 95 mph when he realized that his brakes were gone. He was heading straight for the lever. Now, Nate was crossing the road about this time and the trucker had one chance left to swerve, but if he did, he would hit poor old Nate. If he didn't, he would split the world in half. He knew what he had to do. He jerked the truck over and Nate was no longer with us, splatted all over the highway. Moral: Better Nate than lever!

Jeff Knight
Wickes, Arkansas



"Gosh, how can ya eat a gutsy little guy like that?"

A man with a wooden eye was depressed and went to his doctor for help. The doctor suggested he socialize more, so Saturday night he went to a dance. Everyone was dancing except one girl with crossed eyes. Getting up his courage, he asked if she would like to dance.

"Would I? Would I?" she shouted.

"Crossed eyes! Crossed eyes!" he yelled and walked out.

Conni Action
Toronto, Ohio

One day the parents sent their sons into see their pastor because the boys were always in trouble. The pastor called the eldest, Timmy, into his study. He asked, *"Timmy, do you know where God is?"* Timmy hung his head and said nothing. The pastor asked the same question several more times, never receiving an answer. Finally, the pastor slammed his hand down on the desk, saying, *"Come on, you know where God is."* Timmy jumped down from his chair, ran out of the door, grabbed Jimmy, and ran down the street. Jimmy asked, *"What's the matter?"*

Timmy replied, *"God is missing and they think we took him."*

Denise Stoneman
Weiser, Idaho

Moron: *"My uncle joined the mob."*
Second moron: *"He did?"*
Moron: *"Yeah, his first job was to blow up a bus, but he burned his lips on the tail pipe."*

Mike Bitz
Napoleon, North Dakota

Once there was a man learning how to skydive. He jumped out of an airplane. He could not find the ripcord. On the way down he met a man going up. He asked him, "Do *you know anything about skydiving?"* The man replied, *"No, and I don't know anything about gas stoves either."*

Kevin Woolard
Washington, North Carolina

Many years ago, there was a French count who was found to be a spy for the enemies of the crown. Even when threatened with death, he refused to confess his crimes, so he was taken to the guillotine. Just as the blade began to fall, the count shouted, *"Wait! Wait!"* But it was too late—the count was beheaded. Moral: Don't hatchet your counts before they chicken.

Jeff Blose
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Q: What do you call a clone that chews tobacco?
A: A spitting image!

Scott Plante
New Kent, Virginia

One day a dog came limping into Dodge City. He was limping up the street past the sheriff's office and seeing the sheriff, the dog said, *"Howdy, sheriff."* The sheriff replied, *"Howdy, dog."*

The dog went on and limped past the barber shop, seeing the barber, he said, *"Howdy, barber."* The barber replied, *"Howdy, dog."*

Then the dog limped into a saloon and sat down by the bar. The bartender walked over and said, *"Howdy, dog, what are you doing in town?"*

The dog replied, *"I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."*

Louis Sehrt
Augusta, Missouri

Tom: *"What kind of bird is that?"*
Jim: *"That's a gulp."*
Tim: *"A gulp? I never heard of such a bird."*
Jim: *"It's like a swallow, only bigger."*

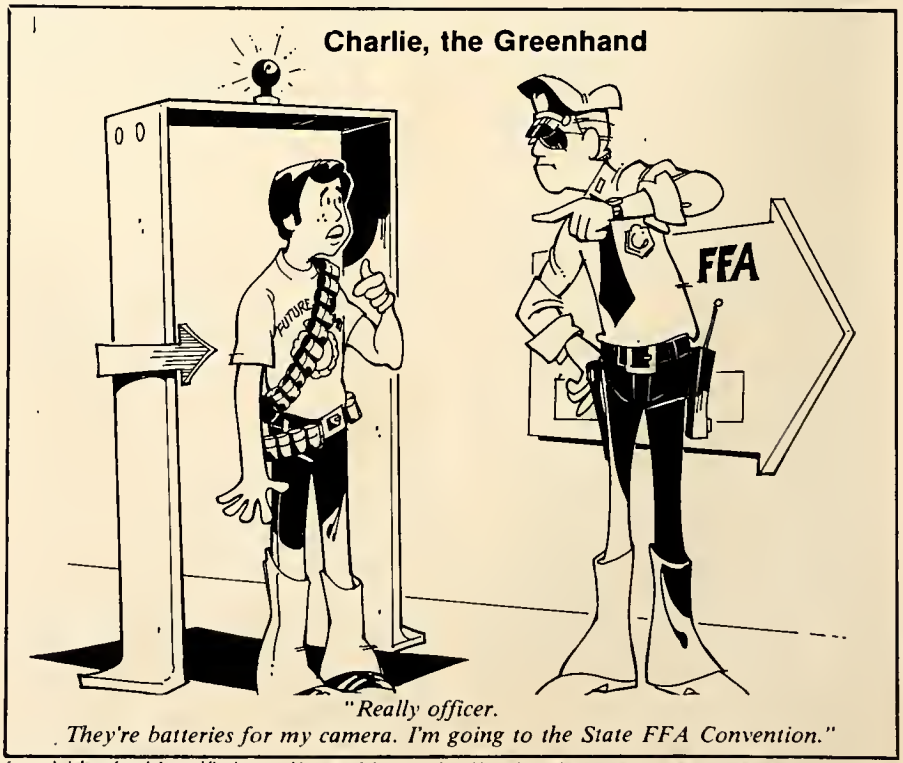
Terry Sisk
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Q: What would you call a metric cookie?
A: A gram cracker.

Jeff Koempel
Cashmere, Washington

A small boy was peeling from sunburn, He looked in a mirror and said, *"Only four years old and already wearing out!"*

Dan Legner
Princeton, Illinois



"Really officer. They're batteries for my camera. I'm going to the State FFA Convention."

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